

Israeli killed in S. Lebanon attack

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli construction worker was killed and two others were wounded when their vehicle was attacked with small arms and grenades in South Lebanon, the Israeli army announced Friday. The three men were heading back to Israel after carrying out repairs at an army installation in Lebanon when they were attacked near the village of Ansar, an army spokesman said. Meanwhile, a local commander of an Israeli-sponsored militia was shot dead by gunmen firing from a car in South Lebanon Thursday, security sources said. It was the latest in a series of attacks on members of the militia, which was set up by Israel to police southern Lebanon but has never been a powerful force. The security sources said Israeli troops closed roads leading to Kfar Roumane, near the southern market town of Nabatiyeh, and arrested several people in a search for the attackers.

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King congratulates India, Australia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to the Indian president congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people, on the Republic Day of India, and wishing the Indian people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a similar cable to Australia's governor general congratulating him on his country's national day and wishing the Australian people every success and prosperity.

Heseltine visits Mideast next week

LONDON (A.P.) — British Defence Minister Michael Heseltine will visit Saudi Arabia and Kuwait next week for discussions on the Iran-Iraq war and the Lebanese situation, his office said Friday. Mr. Heseltine, making his first trip to the area since becoming defence minister a year ago, will also discuss possible British arms sales to the two countries.

100 rescued from Lebanese mountains

BEIRUT (R) — Civil defence workers and security forces Thursday night rescued about 100 people stranded by heavy snowfalls in the mountains east of Beirut, security sources said Friday. Bulldozers cleared roads in the mountains between Beirut and the Bekaa Valley about 30 kilometres east of the capital, allowing 75 trucks and more than 20 cars to continue their journeys, the sources said.

GCC ministers meeting postponed

ABU DHABI (R) — Foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) will meet in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on March 10 instead of Feb. 28, the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported Friday. No reason was given for the postponement of the meeting, which will review latest developments in the region.

Missile plans found in stolen briefcase

BONN (R) — Diagrams of an air-to-ground missile for the West German Luftwaffe's Alpha jet fighter have been found in a stolen briefcase by a Stuttgart telephone kiosk, the mass-circulation newspaper Bild said in Friday's edition. It said the briefcase had been stolen from an employee of the Dornier aviation company during a train trip to Koblenz for talks at the armed forces procurement office. The Koblenz procurement office was accused of a security lapse earlier this week when a computerised list of arms purchases that was supposed to have been destroyed was revealed to have been found in a ditch near the city last year.

Iraq to compensate Japanese company

TOKYO (A.P.) — The Iraqi government will pay compensation worth about 5 billion yen (\$21.4 million) to Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. for losses the Japanese company has suffered due to the Iran-Iraq war.

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Damascus should announce its position clearly, official says

Lebanon not to abrogate Israeli pact without Syrian commitment

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A senior official of President Amin Gemayel's administration said Friday that Lebanon will not abrogate its U.S.-brokered troop withdrawal pact with Israel without prior Syrian commitment to pull out from this Mediterranean nation.

The official also said the government was uncertain whether its concession to reinstate inactive Druze officers in the army would remove the last sticking point holding up a security plan to disengage Lebanon's civil war antagonists.

"We were told by all the Americans and the Saudis, that this is the last issue and that once it's resolved, everything will start rolling," said the official, who briefed Western reporters on the condition his name would not be used.

He said there had been no official response from the Druze leadership to the government decision Thursday to reinstate the estimated 500-800 inactive Druze officers and soldiers who left their Lebanese army during last September's civil war eruption.

Various spokesmen for the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt have been giving varying responses to the government move. But Mr. Junblatt himself has not yet spoken other than saying that the latest round of fighting will continue until Mr. Gemayel steps down.

On the question of foreign troop withdrawal, the Gemayel administration official said Syria still insists on cancelling the Lebanese-Israeli pact of May 17 but had not made clear what it would do if the agreement is scrapped.

The May 17 accord provides for an Israeli withdrawal in exchange for "security" arrangements in south Lebanon. Israel made its withdrawal contingent on a corresponding Syrian pullout in a separate exchange of letters with the United States, the sponsor of the agreement.

"Syria has not committed itself to withdraw even if the May 17 agreement is abrogated," the official said. "And unless we know what Syria's position will be without the May 17 agreement, we're not going to abrogate it."

Asked what the consequences would be if the May 17 accord was scrapped now, the official said: "Our understanding is we will not see the south (of Lebanon) again."

He said the Gemayel government had made repeated attempts to get the Syrians to terms so that negotiations could be started.

"But the Syrians stuck to their basic ideological position, saying 'go cancel the May 17 accord and then we'll see,'" the official said. "There can be no progress on the troop withdrawal issue until the Syrians start talking politics, not ideology. You can't have dialogue on the basis of ideology."

The Syrians maintain an estimated 30,000 troops in northern, eastern and parts of central Lebanon while Israel has some 20,000 troops in the south. The Gemayel government authority is confined to Beirut and its suburbs, where a four-nation Multi-National Force (MNF) helps Lebanon's 37,000-man army.

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Western diplomatic sources as saying the United States has already told the Gemayel government it will back an army offensive to take control of more territory to the south and east.

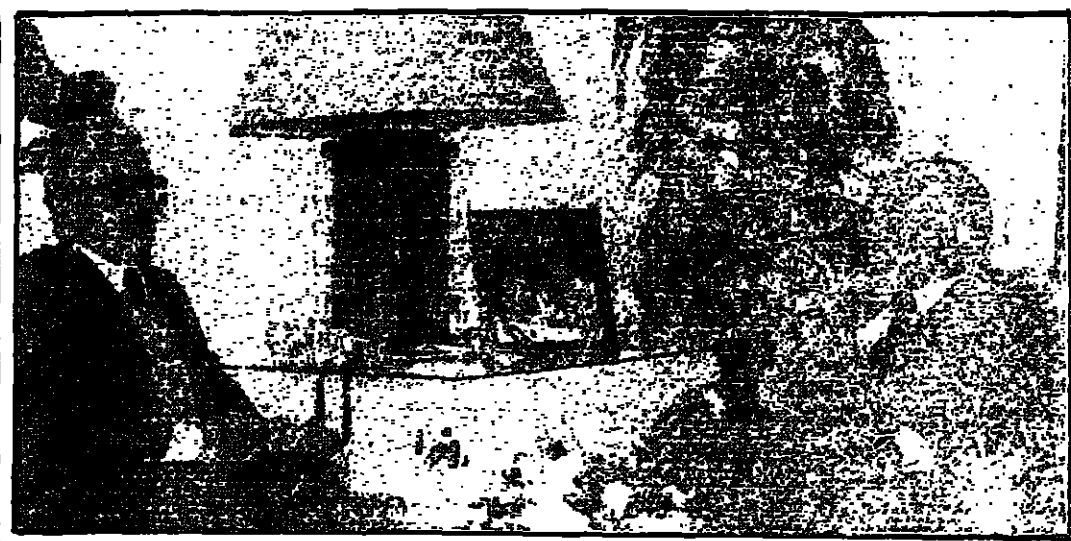
The questions being asked here now are how the Syrians, who have heavy artillery within range of Beirut, would react to an army offensive and whether the United States would join the fighting, as it did in September, on the side of the army.

Meanwhile, Saudi envoy Rafiq Al Hariri arrived Thursday night to mediate between the government and its opponents.

Mr. Hariri, a Lebanese millionaire who serves as an envoy for Saudi King Fahd, said he was carrying new ideas from his talks with Syrian leaders in Damascus to get "the Lebanese crisis out of the tunnel."

The army and the PSP militia fought throughout Thursday with artillery in and around the town of Souq Al Gharb, 12 kilometres south-east of the capital, residents nearby said.

Fighting also flared between PSP and rightist fighters about 25 kilometres south of Beirut in the Kharoub district, radio stations said. Lebanon security plan alive, says U.S., page 2



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Tareq Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, who paid a short visit to Amman Friday to deliver a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to the King (Petra photo)

Hussein receives Iraqi message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received Friday at Al Nadwa Palace Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Tareq Aziz who conveyed a message to King Hussein from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on issues of mutual interest to the two sister countries, in addition to Arab and regional issues, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

It was the second message from President Hussein to the King in three days. On Wednesday, Iraqi Deputy Premier Taha Yassin

Ramadan visited Amman and delivered a similar message to the King from the Iraqi president.

On Wednesday, Mr. Ramadan told the Jordan Times that Iraq supports Jordan's call for adopting majority decisions rather than unanimous resolutions in future Arab meetings, and Iraq will strive for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold.

Mr. Ramadan was speaking after talks with the King and Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat. The Iraqi minister's talks with the

King covered the Iran-Iraq war and latest developments in the Middle East. Mr. Ramadan and Mr. 'Obeidat discussed Jordanian-Iraqi co-operation and co-ordination in various fields.

Attending Mr. Aziz's meeting with the King Friday were: Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Affairs Minister Taha Yassin and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja'a Al Sultan.

Mr. Aziz left Amman after delivering the message.

U.K., Italy support role of MNF but urge greater U.N. action

ROME (A.P.) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Italian Premier Bettino Craxi on Friday reaffirmed their nations' resolve to stay in the Multi-National Force in Beirut, but also suggested a greater U.N. role in Lebanon.

"Both of us see the possibility of an expanded U.N. role in Lebanon," Mrs. Thatcher told a news conference at the mid-point of a two-day summit conference with Mr. Craxi in the Italian capital.

"But in the meantime we are there and do not intend to pull out and leave a vacuum in that country," she added. "We believe that we must all act together in any action that is taken there."

Italy, Britain, the United States and France have forces in the MNF. Italy on Friday finished reducing the size of its contingent in Beirut from 2,100 men to about 1,400 troops as part of a revision of its presence there.

There has been considerable pressure in Italy and Britain to bring the troops home.

"Now is the time to step up political and diplomatic efforts to clarify the positions of all those involved," Mr. Craxi said. He also suggested a greater U.N. role in peace-keeping efforts in Lebanon.

Britain-Argentina mediation

Mrs. Thatcher repeatedly was asked about the Falklands, where Britain and Argentina fought a bitterly contested war for control of the islands in 1982.

Asked whether there had been progress with the Falklands negotiations with the recently elected government of President Raoul Alfonsin, she responded: "none so far."

"We would like to improve relations with Argentina," particularly in commercial areas, she said.

"If we are to restore diplomatic relations, which we would hope, it would be necessary for Argentina to renounce the use of hostilities," she said.

She said Britain would prefer to undertake any negotiations with Argentina directly rather than through an intermediary.

Italy considers itself ideally suited as a go-between because of strong ethnic ties to Argentina on the one hand and its joint membership with Britain of NATO and the European Community on the other hand, officials said.

Photo on page 2

Mubarak reportedly accepts Jordanian, Iraqi invitations

CAIRO (A.P.) — President Hosni Mubarak has accepted invitations to visit Jordan and Iraq but has not decided when to go, the official Cairo Radio said Friday.

The radio quoted a Foreign Ministry official source whom it did not name.

The report said invitations were extended by King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"President Mubarak has accepted the invitations but no date has been set for the visits," the source was quoted as saying.

The invitations had been disclosed earlier by government sources.

Jordan and Iraq were among 17 Arab countries which broke off diplomatic relations with Egypt following its separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

'Obeidat requests local co-operation for elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Thursday issued a communique requesting all ministries and government departments to co-operate with the regional and district governors to provide transport for authorised staff during the period of the byelections due to be held in Jordan within the next two months.

Meanwhile a meeting, presided over by Civil Registration Department Director-General Rita'i Al Hazaymech, was held Thursday at the Civil Registration Department, during which measures to be taken for expediting the issue of family registration books were reviewed.

According to the new measures, citizens who do not possess them will be given priority in being issued with them to enable them to

vote in the forthcoming byelections.

Civil Registration Department and its offices in the governorates and districts will open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the issue of family books and replace those lost or mislaid, Mr. Hazaymech said.

The number of people registered with the department now totals about 97 per cent of the total population of Jordan, Mr. Hazaymech added.

In Amman Governorate, Mr. Yahya Al Mousli Thursday issued a memo forming committees to register voters and to establish registration centres, in accordance with the provisions of item two paragraph c, article two of the new revised election law.

The committees will start work as of Sunday Jan. 28.

Israel requests Australia to keep troops in Sinai

TEL AVIV (A.P.) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir asked Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden Friday to reconsider his ruling Labour Party's election promise to withdraw the Australian contingent of the Sinai peacekeeping force.

Mr. Shamir's spokesman said Mr. Shamir's talks with Mr. Hayden "should be seen as a formal request" to Canberra to keep its 111-man unit in the Multi-National Force and Observers (MFO) occupying a buffer zone between the Egyptian and Israeli armies.

Mr. Hayden arrived earlier Friday from Cairo, where President Hosni Mubarak gave him a written request to maintain the force beyond next April, when the MFO's mandate expires.

Mr. Hayden also visited the Australian troops, based in a former Israeli air base in northern Sinai.

Mr. Hayden said no decision would be taken until after he returned home to discuss the issue with Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

The Australian Labour Party says it objects to the force because

it does not come under United Nations auspices. The force, which was organised by the United States, was deployed in a demilitarised zone of the Sinai Peninsula when Israel returned Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty in 1981.

The spokesman said Mr. Shamir told Mr. Hayden of Israel's dissatisfaction with the level of Egyptian-Israeli relations, which declined after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Mr. Shamir said he hoped there "will be a change for the better," and that Egypt would return to negotiations on Palestinian "autonomy" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The spokesman said Mr. Hayden questioned Mr. Shamir on Israel's settlement policy, and Mr. Shamir replied that he believed the Jewish towns and villages "would not be an obstacle to a peaceful arrangement."

Mr. Shamir and Mr. Hayden were to meet for a second round of talks Monday.

Mr. Hayden then goes on to Syria, Jordan, and East Africa.

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'German policy formed in Bonn, not in Israel,' chancellor tells reporters

Kohl stands firm on arms sales to Saudis

TEL AVIV (A.P.) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Friday indicated his government would stand firm on planned arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to West German reporters, Dr. Kohl was asked if he would change his policy as a result of a bipartisan Israeli campaign to halt the planned sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia.

"German policy is made in Bonn and not in Israel," Dr. Kohl said during a tour of a collective farm on the Sea of Galilee. "This is well understood by Israel."

The chancellor indicated his government would pursue a balanced approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "Germany has traditional relations with Islamic countries and has very friendly relations with Israel which gave birth to three major religions," he said.

Touring holy sites in northern Israel on the fourth day of his six-day visit, Dr. Kohl said "it was a difficult mission but it isn't over yet."

Dr. Kohl, 53, has been faced with constant reminders of Germany's Nazi past during his visit, the second by a chancellor to Israel after World War II. These have included demonstrations by survivors of Nazi concentration camps.

The opposition newspaper Davar reported Friday that talks between Israel and West Germany came to the verge of collapse Thursday night and both sides exchanged accusations.

The pro-Labour daily said Dr. Kohl was disappointed and angered by the progress of his talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and by the inflexible stand

Israel is taking on German arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Davar said Dr. Kohl was surprised by the vehemence of the Israeli opposition to the arms sale, and that the German delegation repeated very strongly when it realised it would not be able to soothe the Israelis.

'Praying for peace'

Dr. Kohl, saying he was praying for Middle East peace, on Friday also visited sites where Jesus and Mary are said to have walked in the Galilee section of northern Israel.

The West German leader, a Roman Catholic, was guided by local priests through the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, where Christian teaching says the Angel Gabriel first announced to Mary that she would bear a holy

child.

He took a ferry ride on the Sea of Galilee, where the Bible says Jesus walked on the water.

Dr. Kohl also visited a tiny church at 'Ein Tabba, the site on the sea's shore where Jesus is said to have fed 5,000 people with fish and loaves of bread.

Standing outside St. Joseph's Church in Nazareth, a group of Arab schoolboys presented Dr. Kohl's wife Hannelore with bouquets.

"The purpose of my visit," Dr. Kohl told reporters, "is to pray for peace in the Middle East."

Later, in a lighter mood as he stepped on the gangplank to board the ferry, Dr. Kohl joked in German. "And now I will walk on water," — quickly adding, with a glance directly at reporters: "And when I read what you write, I'm sure I'll fly across the water."

Guard foils sabotage attempt against Aqsa

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Israeli terrorists armed with hand grenades and explosives tried to enter Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem Thursday night but fled when the mosque guard spotted them, the Palestinian news agency, Wafa, said Friday.

The terrorists were attempting to explode the mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, Wafa said. Sheikh Saadeddin Al Alami, president of the Islamic Higher Committee, accused the Israeli occupation authorities of bearing full responsibility for the terrorist attempt.

According to Israel Radio police chased several Israeli men "who were illegally in the area" Thursday night. The radio said the

men were identified as Jews by police but said they escaped into the Old City.

The radio said police placed a news blackout on the incident and a police spokesman refused comment when reached by telephone by Associated Press in Tel Aviv.

The Palestinian Press Service, a Palestinian-run news service based in Jerusalem, said in a release that a guard at the Al Aqsa Mosque spotted several Israelis carrying hand grenades and six bags of explosives near the mosque.

The news release said the men left the weapons behind and fled when spotted by the guard. An explosive expert defused the grenades, it said.

Israel, by holding Abu 'Ein, jeopardises future exchanges

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Arab attorneys for a Palestinian jailed in accused have Israel of jeopardising future prisoner exchanges with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), by not releasing all those listed last November in a carefully negotiated agreement.

Speaking at a news conference, the lawyers expressed doubts that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would be willing to conduct further negotiations until their client, Ziad Abu 'Ein, was freed.

Mr. Abu 'Ein, who was extradited from the United States and is serving a life sentence for planting a bomb in Israel, was transported with other inmates from

prisons within Israel to Ben-Gurion airport last Nov. 24, where about 4,500 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged for six Israeli soldiers held by the PLO.

According to an affidavit that Mr. Abu 'Ein signed the Israelis took him off a bus that was going to waiting aircraft and returned him to prison. Several other prisoners were also removed from buses on the way from the Ansar prison camp in southern Lebanon, the Red Cross says.

In the affidavit, Mr. Abu 'Ein also related how he was held on the floor of a car at the airport while other prisoners were allowed to board airplanes that took them to Algeria.

Chad tense after downing of French jet

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad was quiet but tense Friday after a French air force Jaguar fighter was shot down on Wednesday by Libyan-backed rebels.

There were no reports of movements by the estimated 3,000 French troops stationed in the Central African nation since last August and informed sources did not anticipate massive retaliation by the expeditionary force.

The sources said there could be a limited strike to show the Libyans the French would not stand by and watch their pilots being shot down and killed.

French Defence Ministry sources in Paris said four Jaguars had flown to Chad from their base in Gabon, bringing French air force strength to seven Jaguars and four Mirage F-1s.

The official Chadian news agency urged the French to launch a reprisal action but a statement from the government was much more restrained.

It blamed "Libyan aggressors" for the incident, the first involving French forces, but did not call for retaliation.

The French Defence Ministry said the plane was hit by a

ground-to-air missile. It was flying a reconnaissance mission after a rebel column had attacked a Chad government post behind a defensive line established by French forces some 300 kilometres north of N'djamena.

The pilot died after his parachute failed to open. Other Jaguars immediately hit back and destroyed several vehicles, the ministry said.

President Hissene Habre's government has urged France to launch an all-out offensive to drive the Libyans out of the northern part of the country they have occupied since last summer's offensive by former President Goukouni Oueddief's rebels.

But France says its troops are in Chad as a deterrent against further advance by the rebels and their Libyan allies and they have ruled out any combat role.

In its first official comment on the loss the Jaguar the French External Relations Ministry stressed the gravity of the situation and said Libya appeared to be responsible.

A statement said the military situation was being studied closely.

Reagan seeks consensus on U.S. policy in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, trying to defuse a bitter election-year debate over his Middle East policy, urged Americans Wednesday night to back him in making sure that terrorism does not drive the United States out of Lebanon.

He said in a State of the Union address to Congress that U.S. troops were helping the Lebanese to break a "cycle of despair," despite charges by his Democratic opponents that their presence was unnecessary and might drag the United States into war. "We are making progress in Lebanon," Mr. Reagan said.

The address included proposals designed to overcome criticism that his budget-cutting plans were at odds with the social welfare needs of Americans.

It could serve as a blueprint for his election campaign if, as expected, he announces in a scheduled speech on Sunday that he intends to seek a second term in November.

Mr. Reagan's overall theme was that despite election-year politics, his opponents should unite behind him in the interests of the nation's welfare.

Mr. Reagan appealed to congressional leaders earlier Wednesday to support his Lebanon policy. But he was strongly challenged by Thomas O'Neill, Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives, in what participants called blunt exchanges.

In his address, Mr. Reagan said: "We are making progress" in overcoming the crisis in Lebanon and moving towards reconciliation among warring factions.

"There is hope for a free, independent and sovereign Lebanon," he said. "We must have courage and give peace a chance. And we must not be driven from our objectives by state-supported terrorism."

Security around the U.S. Capitol was unusually tight as virtually the whole government gathered to hear Mr. Reagan.

The White House quoted Secretary of State George Shultz as saying at the meeting with congressmen that the United States must stand firm against a "Syrian-Soviet axis" in the Middle East and Syrian-backed terrorism in Lebanon.

Mr. Reagan said he was seeking support from allies for concerted action against terrorism.

He said the goal was to banish the "ugly spectre" seen last year when a suicide bomb attack killed 241 U.S. servicemen in the Multinational force in Beirut. The French and U.S. embassies in Lebanon were later hit by blasts.

In a televised response to Mr. Reagan's address, the Democrats charged that his policies were unfair and might have disastrous consequences.

"Our view of the State of the Union is different from the President's," House Speaker O'Neill said.

"In case after case, we find the administration's policies unfair to working men and women, to the elderly, to our children."

"In case after case, we see current policies that may have a disastrous consequences for our future," Mr. O'Neill said.

He was referring to a plan to deploy the Lebanese army into areas controlled by Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Falangist militias.

Mr. Murphy faced two hours of tough questioning on Lebanon when he appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, reflecting growing congressional concern over President Reagan's policy and the continued presence of U.S. troops in Beirut.

Secretary of State George Shultz also held a closed meeting with congressmen in an effort to allay fears and head off legislative initiatives to try to force Mr. Reagan to withdraw the Marines early.

Congress last year voted to allow Mr. Reagan to keep American forces in Beirut until March 1985, but how many members want to shorten that period.

A bill was introduced Thursday that would force the redeployment of Marines to U.S. Navy ships off the coast of Lebanon no later than April 1.

Representative Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat, bluntly warned Mr. Murphy that Lebanon was a "very short time" in which to reach agreement with rival political factions on a new national reconciliation government.

"The patience of the American people and Congress is wearing thin" on U.S.-backed peace efforts, he said.

At the State Department, spokesman Alan Romberg said the United States was continuing to examine the possibilities of a broader United Nations role in Lebanon.

He said that the Multinational Force, which includes British, Italian, and French troops as well as 1,600 U.S. Marines, and the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) "can be considered part of a broad-based international effort to help Lebanon recover its stability and independence."

Although UNIFIL's mandate had been limited to southern Lebanon and to helping restore Lebanese government, he said, "UNIFIL may well have a greater role as the situation changes."



BRITISH-ITALIAN TALKS: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Italian Premier Bettino Craxi attend a dinner Thursday night in Rome prior to their talks on Middle East, the European Community and the British-Argentine conflict over the Falkland Islands (A.P. wirephoto)

Lebanon security plan alive, U.S. official says

WASHINGTON (R) — A security plan that could aid the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Beirut is still alive despite reports of deadlock and might even be approved by political factions in Lebanon soon, a U.S. official said Thursday.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, asked by congressmen if agreement was possible within a few days, said: "I certainly hope so ... in the near future it is achievable."

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Turkey hopes ties with Council of Europe will mend

ANKARA (R) — Turkey hopes its relations with the Council of Europe will be normalised following the visit here of Karl Ahrens, president of the council's Consultative Assembly, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

Mr. Ahrens, a West German Social Democrat, left here Wednesday after a two-day visit to discuss possible compromises over Ankara's dispute with the council.

The political commission of the council, which groups European parliamentary democracies, wants Turkey barred from the assembly's meeting scheduled for Jan. 30 because of its record on human rights issues and reservations over its return to democracy.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who came to power after general elections last November, insists that parliamentarians elected since the military handed back power to a civilian government should attend the meeting. He has threatened to pull out of the council altogether if the Turkey delegation is barred.

Mr. Ahrens said the council was interested in maintaining as wide a range of contacts as possible.

"We're trying to see what's going on. We're not in the business of promoting or pushing anyone," he said.

Officials from all the consulates queried said their presence in Jerusalem was important for the eventual solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"It's clear that although we are historical oddities, we perform an important function here," a European diplomat said.

"If it were up to Tel Aviv to handle the West Bank, our information would be less complete and our contacts less good. We're the way our government keeps in touch with the Palestinians."

Legitimacy to anti-Israeli Palestinians and ignore more moderate leaders.

"After the Camp David accord, the consulates saw the Palestinians who opposed the agreement. They always see the Palestinians who favour the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and not those who have been friendly to Israel," an Israeli official said.

A U.S. spokesman said the consulate was interested in maintaining as wide a range of contacts as possible.

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Egypt says Islamic delegation due Sunday

CAIRO (R) — A delegation from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) is due here on Sunday to invite Egypt back to the Muslim grouping and discuss details of its readmission, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

The delegation was originally scheduled to arrive on Saturday, but gave no reason for the delay, the official said.

He said Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali and his top aides were studying the attitudes of various OIC countries towards Egypt during last week's summit in Casablanca, Morocco and Cairo's future policies towards them.

Egypt for its part will reaffirm its commitment to all Arab and Islamic causes, but was not prepared to scrap its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, because of which it was suspended, as the price of readmission, he said.

The mass circulation Akhbar newspaper said Thursday Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, Upper Volta, Tunisia and Lebanon had voted against Egypt's readmission to the OIC. Cairo was most surprised that Tunisia and Lebanon in particular had voted against Egypt, the newspaper said.

The OIC delegation will be led by Guinean President Sekou Toure.

Brig. Sion said that when the Israelis informed the Egyptians they were in Israeli-controlled territory, the Egyptians surrounded the Israelis and made "intimidating gestures."

An Israeli border police patrol of six officers encountered a force of 12 Egyptian police and civilians on Tuesday on the Israeli side of the 600-metre coastal strip of Tabia, south of Eilat. Brigadier Dov Sion of the Israel-Egypt Joint Military Committee told Reuters.

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Australian minister arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV, Israel (A.P.) — Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden arrived in Israel on Friday for a three-day visit during which he is to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders.

In a statement to reporters at Lod Airport, Mr. Hayden said he had visited Israel before as leader of Australia's opposition, and said Australia was "deeply committed to Israel's right to live in secure and recognised boundaries."

He stressed the friendship between the two countries and called on Israel to show courage and generosity in the search for a lasting peace in the Middle East.

David Kimche, the director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, met Mr. Hayden at the airport.

our permission to operate here," a top Israeli official said.

"We've often thought about just throwing them out, but that's clearly impossible politically."

Instead, the Israelis are hoping to push for the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital by both major U.S. political parties during this year's election campaign, according to several sources.

"This happens every four years," said one consulate official. "For us, it's a non-issue."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry performs the usual courtesies for the consulates, but its officials are forbidden all contact with the consular diplomats.

The situation leads to some oddities. Current U.S. consul-general Wat Cluverius is one of the State Department's ranking diplomats on the Arab-Israeli conflict and was closely involved in negotiations on the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai after the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt.

"Personally, I like Wat very much," a senior Israeli official said. "But since he took over in Jerusalem, I simply can't see him."

The Israelis' most bitter complaint is that the consulates give a

legitimacy to anti-Israeli Palestinians and ignore more moderate leaders.

"After the Camp David accord, the consulates saw the Palestinians who opposed the agreement. They always see the Palestinians who favour the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and not those who have been friendly to Israel," an Israeli official said.

A U.S. spokesman said the consulate was interested in maintaining as wide a range of contacts as possible.

"We're trying to see what's going on. We're not in the business of promoting or pushing anyone," he said.

Officials from all the consulates queried said their presence in Jerusalem was important for the eventual solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

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Registration card issue voluntary, says Rydbeck

By Affab A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck said Thursday that the issuing of individual registration cards is merely a replacement of the family registration cards that have been issued by the agency for Palestinian refugees ever since 1950.

Mr. Rydbeck, speaking at a press conference, said UNRWA has started distributing the cards in Syria and Gaza, 200,000 having been issued in the latter to date.

He added that these cards will also be gradually issued in Jordan. Such cards will be issued voluntarily, he said, continuing "that there only use is to show that a person is a legitimately registered refugee with UNRWA."

Regarding Lebanon, Mr. Rydbeck said that the current situation poses difficulties for issuing these cards. Mr. Rydbeck, who arrived in Jordan to chair the agency's annual general assembly last week, said that UNRWA's budget was the main item discussed in the meeting.

He said that the budget expenditure for 1984 is \$235 million, the largest single amount being allocated for education.

Mr. Rydbeck pointed out that there is no exact figure for income as many governments who are regular contributors did not commit themselves at the pledge conference held in Nov. 1983, in New York. "Most of these governments did not do so because their budget periods do not coincide with UNRWA's budget year."

Mr. Rydbeck said that, based on the assumption that these governments will at least maintain their present level of contributions in addition to those pledges already received, there will be still a deficit of about \$60 million.

Mr. Rydbeck assured his audience that, despite the deficit, UNRWA will resume its services to Palestinian refugees.

Regarding UNRWA's services in Lebanon, Mr. Rydbeck said that the agency still distributes rations to 140,000 people.

On an appeal made by the agency for \$52 million for urgency relief in Lebanon, Mr. Rydbeck said that the agency had received the money; it is a programme, he added, which would not be included in UNRWA's yearly budget.

Mr. Rydbeck added that he had issued another appeal for \$13 million for reconstruction in Lebanon and, to date, the agency had received \$5.8 million.

"The \$13 million also includes continued assistance to refugees to rebuild their homes, and reconstruction has already started in Lebanon," he said.

Asked about UNRWA's position on the Israeli housing schemes for Palestinian refugees initiated by the Israeli Minister Without Portfolio Mordchai Ben Porat, Mr. Rydbeck said that the agency has nothing to do with this plan.

"However, I made it clear to Mr. Ben Porat when I met him in Dec. 1982, and when I met him last week, that UNRWA will keep providing help to the refugees totally independent of this plan whether they are in camps or in their own houses."

"We oppose absolutely the use of coercion on refugees and made clear that UNRWA's policy to refugees will remain firm."

Refugees ask U.N. to maintain services

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan Friday stressed that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) should continue to provide services for the refugees because such provisions are the responsibility of the international community which should continue until the refugee problem is solved.

The representatives rejected the agency's plan to issue plastic registration cards since host countries already provide them with identity cards.

In a meeting Friday morning with UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck and Per Olof Hallqvist, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, the refugee representatives expressed their adherence to their rights of return to their homeland and their rejection of all other alternatives.

They also emphasised that the problems they are currently facing is further proof that there is no solution to their problem divorced from a return to their lands. The tragedy of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, Tal Al Za'atar camp and the refugee camps in south Lebanon are yet more reasons, they said.

The representatives acknowledged the positive stand of the agency during the events in Lebanon. They also praised the commissioner-general's call to the international community to provide protection for the Palestinian refugees in south Lebanon and his condemnation of Israel's seizure of some UNRWA installations in Lebanon in order to obstruct their services.

The representatives also condemned the attempts of the Israeli authorities to dismantle the refugee camps on the pretext of being done for security reasons. According to the representatives, the

Israeli Minister Without Portfolio Mordchai Ben Porat claims that dismantling the refugee camps will improve the living conditions of those refugees.

"If the Israeli authorities care so much about our living conditions," the refugees said, "then why they do not let us go back to live in our cities and villages?"

The representatives also called on UNRWA to maintain a firm stand against the closure by the Israeli authorities of schools and educational institutions in the occupied West Bank whenever an Israeli military vehicle is stoned. The representatives also voiced their hope that UNRWA services will remain and that political factors will not affect them.

During the meeting, the rep-

resentatives also discussed the necessity of resuming the provision of foodstuffs for all Palestinian refugees and not only those in desperate need which currently forms two per cent of the total Palestinian refugee population. They also discussed the possibility of moving the agency's headquarters from Vienna to the field in order for the agency to monitor more closely the living conditions of the refugees and to reduce transportation costs.

On the suspension of the foodstuff aid, UNRWA promised to improve and increase its other services such as the provision of free hospital treatment. Because this promise has not been fulfilled, Mr. Rydbeck promised to study the subject with the Jordanian government.

Envoys visit speakers

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi Thursday morning received in his office the ambassadors of France, West Germany, South Korea, Yugoslavia, Morocco and Tunisia, who congratulated him on the royal confidence in appointing him as Senate speaker.

Mr. Lawzi also received Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Mahdi Obeidi and Assistant Secretary-General Nasouh Al Barghouti, who also congratulated him on his appointment.

Later, Mr. Lawzi received a delegation representing the Hebrew area of the West Bank who called on him in order to express their gratitude and appreciation to King Hussein for his national stand and continued efforts for restoring the usurped land and saving his kinsmen.

The delegation also expressed their belief in the unity and coherence of the Jordanian-Palestinian family and congratulated him on the King's recovery.

Another delegation rep-

resenting the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan also called on Mr. Lawzi to congratulate him on his appointment as speaker and expressed their appreciation to King Hussein for his courageous stand to save the Palestinian people under occupation, and to restore the occupied land.

Meanwhile, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Akaf Al Fayez received at his office in the parliament Thursday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee representative in Amman, Brigadier Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya, as well as the director of the PLO chairman's office here, Najib Al Ahmad, who extended their congratulations to Mr. Fayez on his election as speaker of the house.

Mr. Fayez also received the ambassadors of France, the Soviet Union, West Germany, South Korea and Morocco who each individually extended their congratulations to him on his election.

Also received by Mr. Fayez were Mr. Obeidi and Mr. Barghouti who also congratulated him.

Indian community marks 34th Republic Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Indian community in Jordan celebrated the 34th anniversary of the Republic of India Thursday with a special ceremony held at the Indian ambassador's residence.

A large gathering was in attendance at the ceremony at the outset of which the ambassador, Pyare Lal Santoshi, hoisted the Indian national flag and led the gathering in reciting the Indian national anthem.

Mr. Santoshi also read out a special message from Indian President Zail Singh to mark the occasion, and delivered a speech in which he called for efforts to consolidate Indo-Jordanian ties and increased activities in Indian cultural activities in Jordan.

Mr. and Mrs. Santoshi also hosted a reception Thursday evening to mark the occasion of the Indian Republic Day. The reception was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Masri, Social Affairs Minister Abdul Salam Kana'an, former Public Works Minister Awni Al Masri, Bassam Al Saket, economic adviser to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, senior Foreign Ministry officials, members of the diplomatic community in Amman, Palestinian Liberation Army (PLA) Chief in Amman Brigadier Yahya Al Khatib, prominent Jordanian citizens and Indians living in Jordan, and leading journalists.

Nabulsi details parameters of bank equity restructuring

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a press conference devoted almost exclusively to the government's recent decision to compel foreign bank branches in Jordan to restructure their equity shareholding to reflect a 51 per cent Jordanian ownership, Central Bank of Jordan governor, Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi, said here Thursday the government decided to make the move obligatory because only a few of the eight foreign banks agreed to a voluntary change in their equity structure.

Dr. Nabulsi repeated his view that the government had simply applied existing regulations to the banking sector — which had been exempted from the 51 per cent local ownership clause governing the operations of foreign commercial enterprises in Jordan since 1978 — and was not formulating new laws that herald a change in the country's attitude to foreign capital.

"We had been thinking about this matter for two years, and only decided to compel the foreign banks to change their ownership structure to reflect 51 per cent Jordanian shareholdings after most of the foreign banks indicated they were not interested in making the change on a voluntary basis," Dr. Nabulsi said.

The eight foreign banks affected by the recent decision are Citibank, Chase Manhattan, Grindlays, British Bank of the Middle East, Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Rafidain Bank, Bank Almahshrek and Arab Land Bank.

Dr. Nabulsi also stressed: "We have absolutely no idea of changing the government's well-coming attitude to foreign capital investment in Jordan. We need and continue to welcome foreign capital in Jordan, and, by asking foreign banks to comply with the same regulations applying to all other foreign companies in Jordan, we also emphasise that all foreign companies here will continue to enjoy the existing facilities for the repatriation of their profits and capital."

Foreign bankers contacted by the Jordan Times have expressed surprise at the government's decision to force them to become majority locally owned within three years, and a few have indicated they would study the situation and decide on the most appropriate response. To comply with the regulations and maintain a minority shareholding, perhaps also with a management contract to continue to oversee the operations of the banks, or to sell their shares completely and terminate their presence in Jordan. Most of the foreign banks appear likely to remain in the country, though one or two might pull out if they feel the modest volume of

business and profits in Jordan does not warrant their being minority shareholders in a foreign bank, in a manner that might contradict their operating principles around the world.

Dr. Nabulsi said the foreign banks could maintain their absolute present equity shareholdings if they issued enough new shares to bring Jordanian shareholdings to 51 per cent. He said the government would not interfere with the manner in which the banks change their equity structure within the coming three years, beyond requiring that at least 25 per cent of the value of any new shares issued be offered in a general public share offering. This will ensure that small investors and individuals have an opportunity to buy new bank shares, as well as the big institutional and individual investors who traditionally favour these lucrative shares.

If any local and foreign banks wished to merge, and thereby comply with the new rules for foreign banks, Dr. Nabulsi said such mergers would be welcomed by the Central Bank.

He said the new move was not designed to increase the public sector's involvement in the banking and finance sector, though he seemed to anticipate that some public or semi-public institutions would probably buy into some of the foreign banks.

All Jordanian banks have been asked to raise their capital to JD 5 million by the end of this year, and, when the foreign banks become locally majority owned they must also have a minimum capital of JD 5 million. The Arab Bank is the only Jordanian bank with less than 50 per cent of its shares in Jordanian hands, and it is making equity shareholding changes this year to comply with the 51 per cent local shareholding requirement.

There is some concern that the floating of JD 15-20 million of new shares by the foreign and local banks during the coming three years might squeeze the liquidity of the capital market here, but this should be largely averted by staggering the new share offerings over the three years in which the foreign banks must comply with the letter of the law.



Mohammad Nabulsi

Dr. Nabulsi also said that agreement had been reached with the Bank of England to establish a consortium bank in London owned by all the Jordanian banks except the Arab Bank, which already has branches and a wholly owned investment bank in London. The new Jordanian consortium bank in London, with a capital of ten million pounds sterling, would start as a representative office, then become a deposit-taker, and finally become a fully licensed commercial bank conducting full retail banking services. The new bank should start operations within six months, Dr. Nabulsi said.

He also said the Central Bank would continue such efforts to expand the presence of Jordanian banks abroad, but would have to live with any moves by foreign countries to reciprocate the Jordanian requirement for 51 per cent local ownership. Such majority local ownership requirements already have been implemented in almost all Arab countries, he said, mainly affecting the Amman-based Arab Bank and its branches abroad.

On the expansion of the equity of Jordanian banks, Dr. Nabulsi said he did not expect the enlarged banks to lead to a situation of "over-capacity" in the banking sector, as had happened in the insurance sector in recent years. He noted that the banking sector has expanded rapidly and consistently during the past decade, in line with the growth of the Jordanian economy. He said in most cases banks' equity had remained well below the growth of the economy, and some banks are "quite under-capitalised" at the moment.

"We've closed the door to new commercial banks in Jordan, and our aim is to strengthen existing banks by increasing their capital and reserves," he said.



The partly built building in Tla' Al Ali, the roof of which collapsed Thursday under the weight of cement machines injuring 32, two seriously (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

18 injured in building collapse

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eighteen construction workers were injured Thursday after the collapse of a partly built roof in a building in the Tla' Al Ali area here near the University of Jordan Road. While an estimated 32 people were working on the site, the roof collapsed under the weight of two cement casting machines.

Ambulances, Civil Defence Department personnel, and public security police rushed to the scene of the accident. All the injured

workers were rescued and transported to the University Hospital for treatment.

The injured are in fair condition having mostly suffered bruising and minor fractures. Two workers however were in a critical condition in the intensive care unit, according to Dr. Rizk Al Rashdan, director of the University Hospital who also went to the accident site.

The cause of the accident was attributed to the weak supports under the roof and the heavy pressure caused by the two machines both of which were casting cement

on the roof at the same time.

President of the Jordanian Engineering Association, Laith Shbailat, who visited the scene said he has formed a committee to investigate the accident and to determine who was responsible.

The investigating committee includes engineers: Omar Nashibi, Osama Madi, Mohammad Kilani and Mohammad Al Sati.

Among the 18 injured were the on-site engineer and the contractor, who are both Jordanians, while the other 16 injured were Egyptian and Indian nationals.

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Talking
straight
Marwan
Muasher

What really worries us are the 'days before'

I HAD the chance the other day to watch the much talked about movie, "The Day After", showing the aftermath of a nuclear attack on a mid-western American city. The film was very intense, driving a powerful message home not only that there can be no winners from a nuclear war, but that there is also little hope left for the small number of survivors, who have to contend with radiation effects, and an almost total destruction of buildings, farms and animals.

The film was woven around the stories of several families, windowing parts of their lives shortly before and after the start of a nuclear attack. As such, it plays masterfully to one's emotions, and is able to assert its message more powerfully by bringing the spectator to know and feel with the individual characters in the film.

With excellent special effects, at times repulsively so, the film is indeed moving. And yet somehow it did not leave any kind of a lasting effect on me. I deplored the terrible consequences while watching it, but beyond my basic stand against nuclear weapons, the film did not stir any deeper emotions. While aware of the dangers of such a war, the subject still does not bother me much. I do

not feel threatened by it, although perhaps I should. Nor is it haunting to me, as it must be to an ever-growing peace movement in Europe and the United States.

Furthermore, I do not feel I am alone in my apathetic attitude. I do not think the majority of people here are really concerned about a nuclear war. It might be a surprising attitude to an issue that could literally bring about the end of the world.

But is it really? Having not lived in the Soviet Union, I do not have a real feel for how people feel about the issue, although I imagine they are just as concerned about it as Europeans and Americans are. But, as anyone who has lived in the U.S. for any number of years would tell you, the average American citizen has a genuine fear of Communism. "The Russian Threat", and consequently, a nuclear war, I have always felt, rightly or wrongly, that that fear is exaggerated, perhaps overplayed, and thus could never fully grasp the reasons and feelings that underlie that fear.

In a way, it can very much be likened to the Arabs' obsession with Zionism. An outsider is rightly amazed at our blaming all of our problems on Zionism. But that does not deny the fact that the

average Arab citizen genuinely believes that Zionism is at the root of all his problems, and thus is overly weary of it as a threat.

It is not, of course, the only reason why Americans and Europeans are more weary of nuclear weapons. These weapons are a reality to them. They are built by them, out of their money, and stored amongst them. It is a widely-talked-about subject, in all of their media. Nuclear weapons are to them an everyday fact of life, a fact that has become embedded in their very culture. Even to the average citizen there, nuclear war ranks right up there in his/her worries together with the economy, unemployment and inflation.

The situation is totally different here. A nuclear attack and its consequences probably rank among the lowest of the average Arab citizen's concerns even with all the speculation of Israel's possession of such a weapon, and even after Israel's bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

The Arab citizen, belonging to neither superpower or a nuclear-weapons-producing country, probably feels he/she has no say in the matter anyway, and does not have any control over the breakout of any war of this sort. Furthermore,

there are no nuclear weapons stationed here, and thus there is no direct threat of nuclear weapons as such, although an indirect threat is of course unavoidable.

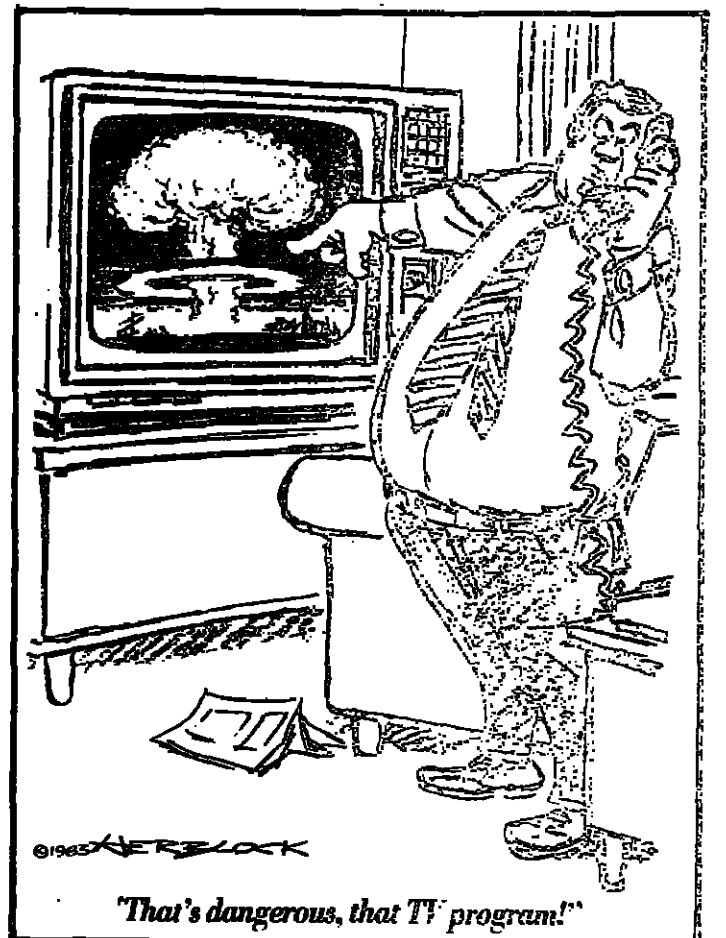
But the real reason behind this apathy of ours lies elsewhere. We simply cannot afford (as ironic as the term may sound) to worry about a nuclear war when we are faced with a lot more basic and immediate issues of our own. Short-sighted? Maybe. But I, for one, would much rather worry and work for some of these more immediate concerns than think about the consequences of such a war.

The fact is that the Arab-Israeli conflict continues to drain our resources. But beyond the obvious negative consequences of the duration of this conflict, the average Arab citizen is simply trying to survive as a member of a modern nation that is still feeling its way. A nation which is yet to complete building a modern infrastructure, as well as stable and democratic political systems, cannot afford to look beyond its boundaries to those of mankind. Indeed, a nation that is not at peace with itself cannot be expected to think about world peace.

Our old generation, partly because nuclear weapons are a rel-

atively new invention and partly because it is not as educated, is hardly concerned about the issue. But our new generation is just as indifferent, although for different reasons. Such is the frustration with the existing social and political conditions in the Arab World that all efforts, however small or large, must be directed towards the upgrading of these conditions. The youth in Europe and the U.S., although having frustrations and problems of their own, live in stable enough societies to direct part of their attention towards the nuclear problem. We, however, are not that fortunate.

A nuclear war might very well end civilisation as we know it, but we cannot but ignore the possibility that it might occur. It is not a matter of caring or not about humanity for us. Rather, it is a matter of our own survival, which is at stake with or without a nuclear war. We have to worry about all the days before a nuclear attack, only hoping that such a possibility would not materialise. It is a fight others will just have to carry out on our behalf and that of the rest of mankind. I hope the world takes no offense at us sitting this one out.



Mass Ethiopian returnees make it on foot

By Barry Schlachter
Associated Press

ERER, Ethiopia — Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians who fled into neighbouring countries during the 1977-78 Ogaden war with Somalia are coming home at a time of famine and insecurity.

But United Nations and Red Cross officials maintain that the areas to which the refugees are returning are not embroiled in guerrilla conflicts currently afflicting northern Ethiopia, and sufficient relief supplies are on hand for them.

About 4,500 Ethiopian Muslims have ridden trains from Djibouti and another 4,500 or so have returned on foot in a highly co-ordinated programme run by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the governments of Ethiopia and Djibouti.

In a more dramatic, but largely unpublished movement, some 200,000 refugees have crossed back on foot from Somalia, making circuitous routes at night around Somali military lines since the Mogadishu government was believed to strongly oppose their departure.

They represent more than a quarter of the Ogaden refugees who had created one of the world's biggest refugee problems. About 75 per cent of those repatriated came during the past six months, according to officials of the

Geneva-based League of Red Cross Societies.

In Erer, a town on the French-built railway line about 64 kilometres west of Dire Dawa, returnees from Djibouti are put in special burlap- and plastic-covered shelters for new arrivals, then given materials to build their own temporary homes.

A U.N. official, based in Dire Dawa in Hararaghe province, which includes the disputed Ogaden region, said time was required for the refugees to adjust to a normal lifestyle following six years, in many cases, of dependency.

Both those from Djibouti and Somalia would eventually receive "self-sufficiency packages," said the official, who declined to be identified in keeping with his agency's practice.

In the case of a farmer, a \$400 package would include an ox, a plow, seed, fertiliser, three months' rations and a small plot of land.

Relief workers said the returnees from Somali refugee camps were in good health. The repatriation programme for those arriving from Somalia was targeted for only 38,000 — not the 200,000 that arrived. But many refugees returned to their home villages where they may own farms or have relatives to help them.

Concerned agencies have requested \$20 million in money and supplies to handle the larger-

than-expected load.

"No one forced me to return," said Halima Ahmed, a 30-year-old mother who came back to Erer after living in Djibouti since 1977.

Pounding sorghum into flour outside her temporary home covered with a sheet of black vinyl, she said: "We came back because we had nothing in Djibouti except the burning of the sun." The refugee woman referred to Djibouti's scorching desert climate, much hotter than the relatively milder weather of Erer.

In all, some 300,000 refugees lived in Djibouti and a "working figure" of 750,000 in Somalia, where relief agencies estimated the number at several hundred thousand less and the Mogadishu government at several hundred thousand more.

In both cases, most escaped the fighting and accompanying famine during the 1977 Somali invasion of the Ogaden, an arid region inhabited by Somali-speaking Muslims, or when Ethiopian and allied Cuban troops captured the territory afterward.

The military debacle saddled Somalia's president, Maj. Gen. Mohamed Siad Barre, with what was the world's largest refugee problem until it was overtaken in numbers by the Afghan flux into Pakistan following the 1979 political changes in Afghanistan.

Western countries and relief agencies gave Somalia some \$80

million a year in aid — now a major source of foreign exchange which the poor pastoral country on the Horn of Africa can ill afford to lose.

Although Somalia resisted pressures to permanently resettle the Ogaden tribesmen, which would mean the loss of their status as refugees, it began conscripting some in 1982. This led to a stiff UNHCR protest and increased international pressure to move the refugees from camps near the sensitive border area and into permanent communities.

Relief workers — while unable



They are after food, clean clothes and education. WFP photo.

A man who needs no media

By Sehyan Joh
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Louis Lavaris, a doorman at an apartment building near the United Nations headquarters, says he does not have to read newspapers or watch television to find out what is happening in the world.

"I just stand here and watch what's going on across the street," he said, pointing to Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, where people of every political persuasion gather to demonstrate for their causes or air their views on world affairs.

"They do it often when the world is in trouble and weather is nice," Mr. Lavaris said. "It was Afghans against Soviet military presence in their country the other day and it was a group of Greeks against Turks in Cyprus before that. You just read their placards and listen to what they say through bullhorns and you know what has happened in Beirut, San Salvador or Manila."

"They even had penguins out their late last year," he added, referring to a demonstration by environmentalists who set up a picket line of dozens of knee-high plastic penguins to protect plans by 14 nations to develop the Antarctic's natural resources.

At Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, named after the former Swedish secretary-general, and smaller parks near the United Nations,

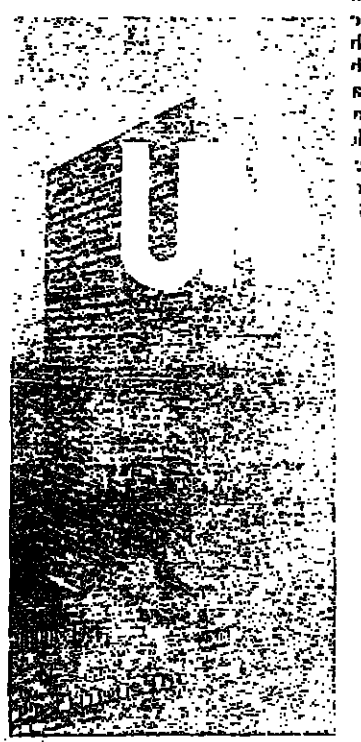
there were 108 demonstrations in 1983 with the number of demonstrators averaging 300 to 400 people, according to Lt. David Tarantino of the New York City Police Department. Lt. Tarantino is in charge of maintaining order around the United Nations.

"That means we had an average of one demonstration every three or four days last year," Lt. Tarantino said. "Some of them were pretty vocal, but on the whole, they were orderly and non-violent." Only 32 persons were taken into custody last year but all of them were released within 24 hours, he said.

The number of demonstrations increases sharply when the General Assembly is in session, although diplomats generally agree that protests and demonstrations do not affect their policy-making process or influence what they say inside the world body.

"I am vaguely aware that there are demonstrations of one kind or another going on out there all the time but I must confess I have never tried to find out what they were demonstrating for or against," said a diplomat from a Middle Eastern country who declined to be identified by name or nationality.

"We always take these demonstrations seriously," Joel Blocker, spokesman at the U.S. mission to the United Nations, said. But he added that personally he



thought, they did not have a serious effect on U.S. policy.

Soviet officials expressed a similar opinion.

"We pay attention to these people (demonstrators) when they concern us," said Valentin Karymon, press officer at the Soviet mission. "But we do not change our position because of them."

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Pakistan sweeps Asian squash titles

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Second Asian Squash Championship ended here Thursday with Pakistan proving yet again to be Asia's most dominant squash force. They won both the singles and team event title.

On Thursday, the closing day of the championship, Pakistan won the team event when they defeated Malaysia 3-0 at the Sports City squash courts.

Singapore came good at the end and beat India 2-1 in a series of exciting matches to secure second position behind Pakistan leaving the defeated Indian team to take third place in the team events. Jordan also tried hard to improve their position but lost 3-0 to Malaysia despite their brave efforts and hard playing.

Malaysia's victory over Jordan secured them the fourth position and placed Jordan fifth ahead of Sri Lanka in 6th and Bahrain in 7th place.

The final day of the championship provided some excellent competition as the teams fought to improve their positions behind Pakistan, the World Champions, who were certain of the title from the outset. The India v Singapore matches were fiercely contested with long, hard rallies as the teams vied for second place in the tournament. Abidin of Singapore defeated Mahendra of India 3-0 and Darwalla of India defeated Tan of Singapore 3-0 leaving the decisive game to be fought out between Peter Hill of Singapore and Najid Singh of India. In a close and well-contested match, Singh failed to beat Hill who won 4-7, 4-5, 6-9, 4-2. The victory gave Singapore a much-deserved second place with their 2-1 win over India.

More good play was to follow when Jordan met Malaysia to play

for fourth position. Mohanad Murar of Jordan started well in his match against K. Tan of Malaysia but could not keep up the pace and lost the first set 3-9. Tan quickly took the next two sets and won the match 4-3, 0-2, 0-1.

Hamid Sa'eed of Jordan put up an excellent fight against Maniam of Malaysia and further illustrated his capabilities and potential in competitive tournaments. Sa'eed was slow to start and lost the first set to love but by the second set he got into his stride and took a 6-1 lead. Sa'eed displayed his fitness in a series of long rallies, dropping only one more point to win his way to winning the second set 9-2.

The third set proved to be the most exciting with the well-matched players stretching themselves to claim each point. At 0-0 Tan took the deciding point and won the set 10-9.

The fourth set was won by Sa'eed 9-2 much to the delight of the capacity crowd who encouraged him throughout with shouts, whistles and cheers. With the score at 2-2, the concentration and tension on the player's faces were evident as they played the fifth and final set of the match.

Tan was obviously under strain and requested the referee to silence the crowd who continued to show their full-blooded support for Jordan's Sa'eed. However, the tired Sa'eed lost the set 5-9 and Tan took the match 4-0, 2-9, 10-9, 2-9, 4-5.

After the match Hamid Sa'eed commented that the Jordanian team had improved during this

tournament and that the Second Asian Championship had been a very good experience for them. He also said that the hard work put in by trainer Fahim Gul over the past six months had been the major factor in bringing the national team up to a competitive standard to participate in these events.

In the final match of the championships Jordan's Nidal Qart lost to K. Ong of Malaysia giving a 3-0 victory to Malaysia.

An exhibition match was staged on Thursday between World Champion Jahangir Khan of Pakistan and Qamar Zaman, world number 2, also from Pakistan. The effortless ease with which the Pakistani team won the championships was exemplified in this exhibition match where both players demonstrated their superb techniques and elasticity that have deservedly made them world champions. The match, which was attended by Pakistan's ambassador to Jordan H.E. Ehsan Rashid, drew large crowds who obviously appreciated the rare opportunity to watch the best in the world displaying their skills.

On the final day of the Second Asian Championships Secretary General of the Jordanian Squash Federation (JSF), Mr. Hassah Saudi said that he and the federation were pleased with the outcome of the tournament and the way it had publicised squash as a sport in Jordan. He also said that it is an achievement that the JSF, which is only 4 years old, had staged such an event. Mr. Saudi went on to say that the possibility of Jordan joining the International Squash Federation was being discussed with Mr. Roger Eady from the federation following the successful organisation of the Second Asian Championship and Jordan's determination and hard work. The question of sponsorship is not yet resolved as the Jordanian team would need more money if they

are to continue playing on an international level, he said. However, private individuals and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, had encouraged the JSF by providing donations and airline tickets to finance the championship, and Mr. Saudi expressed optimism regarding further financing.

Following the final matches, a prize giving ceremony was held at the Sports City under the patronage of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd. Mr. Akram Masarweh deputising for the Prince presented competitors and organisers trophies and shields for their participation in the championships.

Final standings:

- Singles**
1) Qamar Zaman (Pakistan)
2) Maqsood Ahmed (Pakistan)
3) Fahim Gul (Pakistan)

Teams

- 1) Pakistan
2) Singapore
3) India

Results on final day of championship: M. Ahmed (Pakistan) beat Rajindra (Malaysia) 9-4, 9-3, 9-5. Q. Zaman (Pakistan) beat K. Tan (Malaysia) 9-2, 9-2, 9-3. J. Khan (Pakistan) beat Maniam (Malaysia) 9-4, 9-2, 9-3. P. Hill (Singapore) beat N. Singh (India) 9-7, 9-5, 6-9, 9-2. Z. Abidin (Singapore) beat Mahendra (India) 9-3, 9-0, 9-7. Darwalla (India) beat G. Tang (Singapore) 9-0, 9-3, 9-1. K. Tan (Malaysia) beat M. Murar (Jordan) 9-3, 9-2, 9-0. S. Maniam (Malaysia) beat H. Sa'eed (Jordan) 9-0, 2-9, 10-9, 2-9, 9-5. K. Ong (Malaysia) beat N. Qart (Jordan) 9-6, 9-5, 9-1. Exhibition match: J. Kahn (Pakistan) beat Q. Zaman (Pakistan) 9-3, 5-9, 9-3, 9-4.

China does not expect outstanding results

LOS ANGELES (R) — Chinese Olympic officials said Wednesday they do not expect outstanding results from their team at the summer games in Los Angeles.

The Chinese team will comprise about 300 athletes and officials. "This will be the biggest (Chinese) contingent to be sent to an Olympic," the vice-president of the Chinese Olympic committee, Chen Xian, said in a statement issued in Los Angeles.

"We hope we will do well in the Olympics. However, since it is the first time we have sent such a big delegation, we do not expect to achieve outstanding results."

Chen headed a 7-member delegation which concluded an 11-day visit to inspect the Olympic sites.

In his statement, issued through the Los Angeles Olympic organising committee, Chen announced that China had formally accepted the committee's invitation to attend the games.

Sports experts said they expected the Chinese would be strongest in women's volleyball, gymnastics, track and field, swimming, archery and basketball.

"Even with the rapid development of sport in our country, they are some events in which we continue to lag behind," Chen said.

"Our athletes will do their utmost to display good sportsmanship and try to realise their full potential."

Chen said he would welcome athletes from Taiwan.

Lendl, McEnroe power into quarter-final of U.S. indoor tennis

PHILADELPHIA (R) — By identical scores and in decisive style, top seeds Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe powered their way into the quarter-finals of the \$300,000 U.S. Indoor Tennis Championships Thursday night.

Top-seeded Lendl, hitting everything hard and his serve even harder, blasted 10 aces to bundle out American Tim Gullikson, 6-1, 6-2 in 43 minutes.

The 23-year-old Czechoslovak reeled off nine straight games from 1-1 in the opening set with a loss of just six points. He had four love service games and wrapped up both sets with aces.

"I don't mind if it is short," said Lendl, last year's runner up, who

next meets unseeded American Brad Gilbert, who upset ninth-seeded South-African born American Johan Kriek, 7-6, 6-2.

Not to be outdone, McEnroe, the two-time defending champion, took 63 minutes to beat 16th-seeded fellow American Scott Davis, 6-1, 6-2.

McEnroe, 24, lost his serve once in the fifth game of the first set. But he had no real problems as his opponent never really got started.

McEnroe now faces 11th-seeded Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia who beat unseeded American Butch Walts, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Third-seeded Yannick Noah of France saved two set points to score a 7-6, 6-3 victory over 16th-seeded Henri Leconte, his

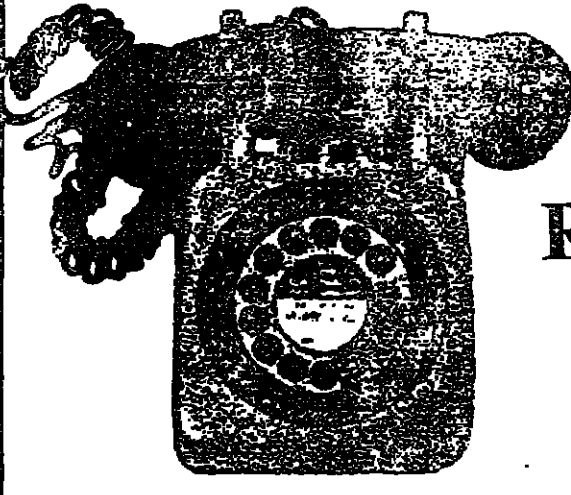
Davis Cup teammate and sometimes doubles partner.

Leconte made some great winning shots, but as is his fashion, followed them with a string of careless mistakes.

Noah, 23, was the more consistent and served extremely well, down 4-5 in the first set, saved double set point with service winners. In the tiebreaker, Leconte made four consecutive errors to fall behind 6-1.

Less decisive were the victories by fourth-seeded American Jimmy Arias and unseeded 31-year-old Wojtek Fibak of Poland to set up their quarterfinal match.

Arias kept his cool after losing a 5-2 final set lead and three consecutive match points in the tiebreaker to beat 14th-seeded Heinz Gunthardt of Switzerland, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6.




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The Water Authority wishes to inform interested tenderers that the tender opening date for contract no. 10 has been extended. Tenders will be opened at offices of the Water Authority Jabal Hussein, Ministry of Interior Circle (Ex - AWSA headquarters) at 12 o'clock on March 3, 1984.

**M.S. Khlani
President**

WATER AUTHORITY ZARQA - RUSEIFA PROJECT CONTRACT 8

The Water Authority wishes to inform interested tenderers that the tender opening date for contract no. 8 has been extended. Tenders will be opened at offices of the Water Authority Jabal Hussein, Ministry of Interior Circle (Ex - AWSA headquarters) at 12 o'clock on March 1, 1984.

**M.S. Khlani
President**

Dublin announces 'neutral' budget

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Finance Minister Alan Dukes announces what he called a "neutral" budget Wednesday with small increases on drinks and cigarettes and some tax relief for the lower paid.

After 4 consecutive tough budgets that have made Ireland one of the most heavily taxed countries in Europe, Mr. Dukes announced that most income tax levels would stay where they are.

He set his target for the state's spending deficit, which the government is pledged to wipe out by 1987, at roughly the same level as last year in cash terms.

2 pence was added to the price of a pint of beer and 10 pence to a packet of cigarettes.

Spirits were left out, probably because the high existing duty on them has led to widespread smuggling from British-ruled Northern Ireland.

The budget was immediately

criticized by the opposition Fianna Fail Party for not tackling the problem of unemployment, now over 16 per cent of the working population.

The government extended Value Added Tax (VAT) for the first time to clothing, at a rate of 8 per cent, but exempted clothing for children under 10 years old.

Total revenue for 1984 will be 5.91 billion pounds (\$6.5 billion), against expenditure of 7.1 billion pounds (\$7.7 billion), leaving a current budget deficit of 1.089 billion pounds (\$1.2 billion), or 7.5 per cent of gross national product.

This compared with the 1983 deficit of 1.085 billion pounds (\$1.2 billion).

Mr. Dukes said that the government's borrowing target for 1984, at 1.87 billion pounds (\$2.1 billion), was down to 14 per cent of gross national product, from a 1981 high of 18 per cent.

Mexicans tighten belts

MEXICO CITY (R) — President Miguel De La Madrid's tough austerity policies, aimed at putting Mexico on the road to economic recovery, have won praise from the banking world, but labour unions and industrialists say they could threaten the country's political stability.

"This will be another year of sacrifice for the workers," said Mr. Porfirio Camarena Castro, economic adviser to the main labour union, the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM).

"This process cannot continue, because it threatens to rupture the equilibrium of our society," he added.

The year-old austerity programme helped avert default on the country's \$30 billion foreign debt. Payments are now being made on time and, in the words of a senior U.S. banker, "Mexico is an example to the world."

Inflation, 100 per cent in the crisis year of 1982, was reduced to an official 80 per cent in 1983 and President De La Madrid has promised to cut it to 40 per cent this year.

As part of the agreement with its creditors, Mexico has kept wage increases below inflation and cut back on subsidies on food, transport and basic goods.

Living standards dropped by 46 per cent last year and in a televised new year address President De La Madrid warned Mexicans to expect little improvement in the year ahead.

The unions initially sought a wage increase to offset inflation, but the national minimum salary commission awarded them only a 30 per cent rise which means that a

worker in Mexico city now earns 680 pesos (\$4.25 a day).

Worried about possible labour strife, representatives of employers on the commission had sought a 45 per cent rise, according to the radical weekly Proceso.

Despite its criticism, the CTM, which represents around half of the country's 7 million union members, has promised to cooperate with President De La Madrid.

But Mr. Camarena Castro, echoing sentiments often heard among workers, said Mexico's commitments to the international banking community "are now running our economy."

The belt-tightening has led to a shift to cheaper and less nutritious food, according to CTM statistics. Tortilla — a flat corn bread — soft drinks and beans have been substituted for meat, milk, eggs and vegetables.

In addition industrialists criticize the growing state bureaucracy, which a study commissioned by President De La Madrid says has 4 times more employees than it needs.

Mr. Eugenio Clariand, vice president of the chambers of industry confederation, said: "For many Mexicans, 1984 will be a very difficult year full of anxiety. But at the same time we have a bloated, inefficient bureaucracy which has not suffered at all." He said it should be weeded out to share the burden of recovery.

With investment levels low, industry is running at around 60 per cent of capacity, which has created new problems as peasants flock to the big cities only to find they cannot get work.

UAE plans to insure small bank depositors

BAHRAIN (R) — The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is drawing up plans to insure small depositors, with banks in a further attempt to bolster confidence in the federation's banking system, central bank sources said Thursday.

The central bank is examining British, Dutch and American bank deposit guarantee schemes to find a blueprint for the UAE regulations, which might be introduced as early as this year.

The sources said it was hoped recommendations could be put before the central bank's board for a decision in early April.

The UAE scheme would be compulsory for banks, which would pay a premium based on the deposits insured and would aim to protect people with average sums on deposit or less.

Larger depositors would not be fully protected.

The banking system in the UAE has for some time been facing difficulties, culminating last November in the bail-out of the Dubai-based Union Bank of the

Middle East.

Bankers said the country was widely considered to have too many banks chasing too few potential depositors, and insurance of deposits would help encourage confidence in the smaller local banks.

The central bank has proposed a number of other measures including bank mergers to strengthen the banks, which have also been hurt by the economic slowdown in the country arising from declining oil revenues.

The sources said the maximum deposit insured would probably be somewhere between the maximum insured deposit in the Netherlands, about 50,000 dirhams (\$13,600), and that in the U.S. of \$100,000.

The sources said it was not known which system the new scheme in the UAE would most resemble, but said establishment of a separate body like the American Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was unlikely since it would require time-consuming legislation.

Abe, Brock open talks on U.S. exports to Japan

WASHINGTON (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe has opened talks on U.S. demands that Japan ease restrictions on imports of American meat and citrus fruits.

Mr. Abe met U.S. trade representative Mr. Bill Brock shortly after arriving from Tokyo Thursday and is due to meet President Reagan and other top officials.

U.S. officials said Mr. Abe and Mr. Brock discussed the question of Japanese quotas on U.S. beef and citrus imports.

The U.S. has long wanted the quotas eased but the restrictions are backed by Japanese farm lobbies and the issue is politically sensitive for Tokyo.

The picture was brighter for the Americans on another trade issue discussed by Mr. Abe and Mr. Brock — that of U.S. sales of equipment to the government-owned Nippon Telephone and Telegraph Public Corp. (NTT).

A senior U.S. official told reporters the United States and Japan had negotiated a 3-year renewal of an agreement under which U.S. firms had equal access to sales to NTT.

The official said the agreement, which he indicated was an improvement on the previous accord,

had been "basically wrapped up" and would be signed on Monday.

He said the intention of the accord was to open the way to substantially increased U.S. sales to NTT and to provide for sharing of research and development with NTT laboratories.

Mr. Abe is also to have talks with Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz Friday during which he is likely to be asked for his impressions gleaned during a trip last year to Iran and Iraq.

Japan, unlike the United States, has diplomatic relations and extensive economic ties with both countries.

The U.S. official who briefed reporters Thursday indicated that the United States might want to take advantage of those links to open a confidential channel to the two countries which have been at war for more than 3 years.

After his talks Friday, Mr. Abe is to spend the weekend in Georgia where there are a number of U.S.-Japanese joint business ventures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey closes down small bank

ISTANBUL (R) — The Turkish government Thursday closed down a small private bank, Turkiye Bagcilar Bankasi (Bagbank), using new regulations brought in last year to improve control over the banking system. The state deposit insurance fund will ask a court to pronounce the bank bankrupt and oversee repayment of depositors from its assets and a fund set up under the new regulations. Banking sources in Istanbul said finance ministry had been inspecting the family-owned bank's accounts. They also noted that a local businessman was last week given a court mandate to seize the bank's assets because of an allegedly unpaid deposit account.

Mobil, Shell report higher earnings

NEW YORK (R) — The Mobil Corporation Wednesday estimated its 1983 earnings at \$1.5 billion, a 24 per cent increase over 1982. The increase came despite a drop in total revenues to \$58.5 billion from \$64.1 billion. The company said sharply higher results in its foreign petroleum operations and a turnaround in retail merchandising more than offset the \$98 million writeoff it took on its failed Mukluk well in Alaska. Shell Oil reported that its profits for 1983 were \$1.633 billion, an increase of \$28 million over 1982. President John Bookman attributed the gain to improvements in Shell's chemical business.

Ecuador, creditors reach agreement

LIMA (R) — Ecuador said Wednesday it had reached an agreement with foreign creditors on terms for refinancing payments on its \$6.3 billion foreign debt due by June. Ecuadorian representatives met delegates of the foreign creditors in New York last weekend, and reached agreement on the grace period, due date, interest rate and commission cost of the refinancing. Diplomats said the discussions involved \$350 million in payments due in the first 6 months of the year. It hoped to received new credits of up to \$250 million.

Egypt leaves key oil prices unchanged

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has decided to leave the price for its benchmark Suez blend crude oil at \$28.00 a barrel for February, but will raise the heavier Ras Gharib crude by 25 cents to \$25, authoritative oil industry sources said Thursday. Egypt exports some 24,000 barrels daily of Ras Gharib, about 10 per cent of its total crude oil exports. Price of its other crude oil grades remain unchanged and sales remain on the basis of 60 days' credit, the sources said.

IDB approves \$200 million in assistance

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) approved about \$200 million for foreign trade operations, loans and technical and special assistance for several countries and institutions.

Bangladesh will get \$25 million for the import of rock phosphate and crude oil.

Iraq will spend \$20 million to import palm oil.

Jordan will get \$21 million to import crude oil.

Pakistan will get \$50 million to import fertilizer, crude oil and palm oil while Senegal will get \$6 million for the import of crude oil and soyabean.

Tunisia will spend \$10 million to import sulphur. Turkey will get \$35 million to import crude oil and the Yemen Arab Republic

will get \$20 million for the import of refined petroleum products.

Meanwhile, Syria will spend \$8 million to import liquefied petroleum gas cylinders.

The IDB board of directors also approved \$108,000 to finance a feasibility study for the improvement of coffee production in the Yemen Arab Republic.

A sum of \$5.65 million will also be provided in a grant towards the construction of a Muslim boys school on the island of Reunion near Madagascar (\$3,400,000), construction of schools for Muslim children in Ethiopia (\$2.25 million), the Islamic College project in Chicago, (\$100,000) grant and \$200,000 loan, and a grant towards improvement of health conditions and services in Chad (\$2 million).

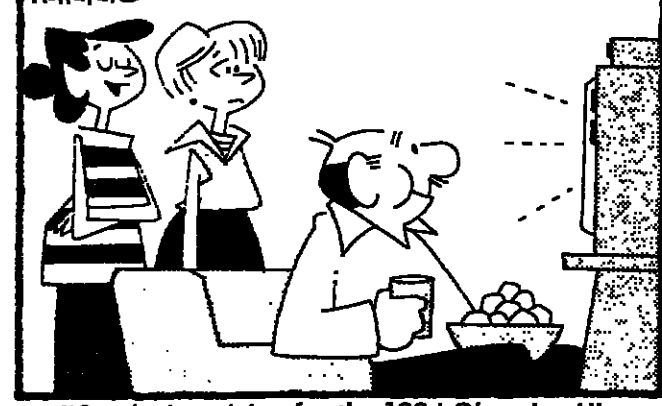
Jakarta to send workers to Malaysia

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia will send thousands of plantation workers to the east Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, Manpower Minister Sudomo said Thursday. He said the 2 states had agreed to accept 1,500 workers every month in addition to the 130,000 Indonesians already employed there.

Mr. Sudomo told reporters that until now most Indonesians working in the 2 states had made their own way there or had been sent by employment brokers. Some of them had run into problems with the Malaysian authorities for illegal entry.

THE BETTER HALF

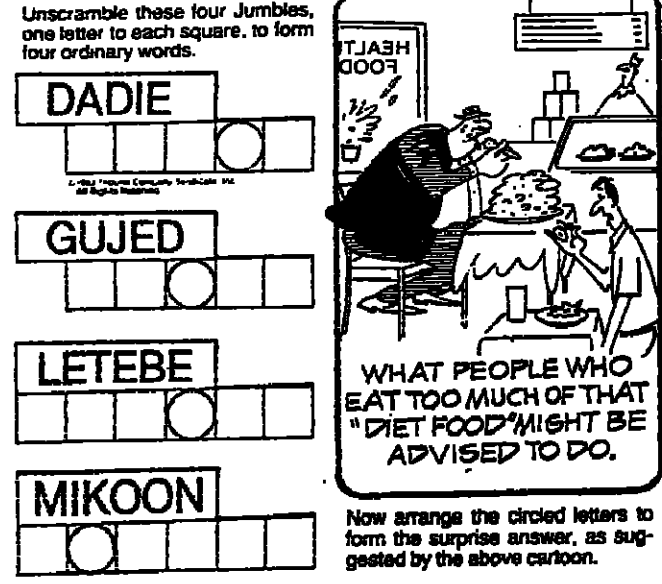
By Harris



"Stanley's training for the 1984 Olympics. His specialty is the 50-yard dash to the refrigerator!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: SQUAW YOKEL SHOULD GAINED

Answer: Although she's had many requests, she insists on singing this—ANYHOW

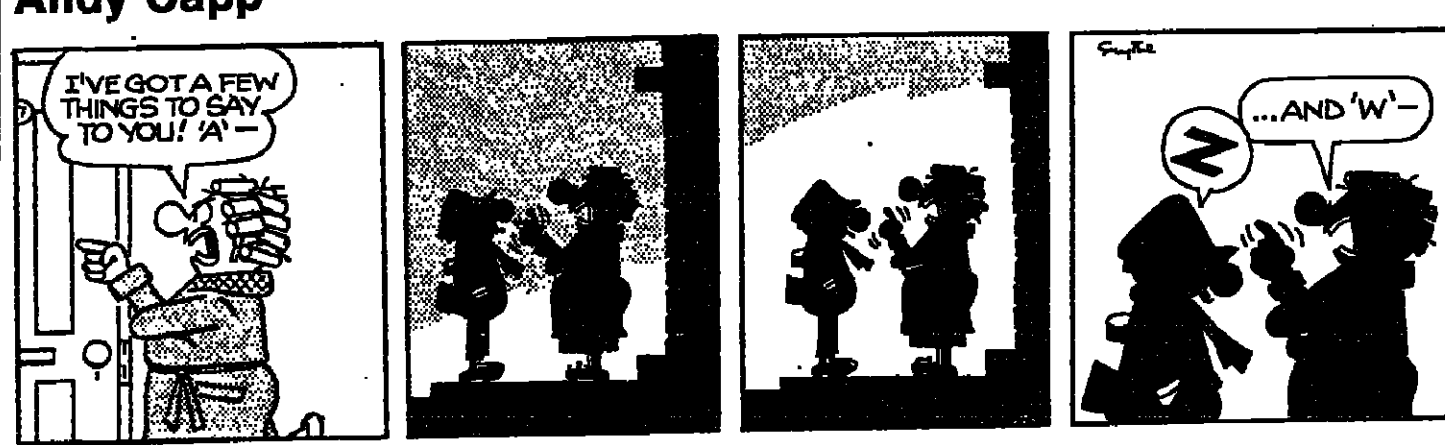
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Seoul to cut reliance on Middle East oil

SEOUL (OPECNA) — South Korea is to reduce its dependence on Middle East oil by diversifying its supply sources to other regions of the world, including South East Asia. Energy and Resources Minister Choi Dong-Kyu said here Thursday. South Korea imports more than 170 million barrels of oil a year. The minister said dependence on Middle East oil would be reduced to 68 per cent this year, while imports from South East Asia and other regions would be increased from 27 per cent in 1983 to 32 per cent this year. The ministry will conduct a seismic survey on the fifth mining bloc on the country's continental shelf where it hopes to tap oil in a joint venture with foreign companies. The shelf is divided into 7 blocs.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 28, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening to get right at those usual Saturday chores that require your attention and do them without further delay despite the fact that you feel indifferent.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Good day for keeping in touch with those at quite a distance, so write, use the telephone, etc. A new contact proves helpful.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get at those reports, bills, etc. about which you have been procrastinating and be accurate and efficient.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The promises you have not completed where partners are concerned can be handled nicely now. Be more alert.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Get caught up on all those small tasks ahead of you and they are soon cleaned up. Avoid a bothersome person.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) During spare time, arrange recreational appointments with your friends so that all will be prepared. Get creative work done with a flair.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A good day for shopping for home and family needs and for getting the house in fine order. Be sure children are well-mannered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get into Saturday routines and handle them well. Complete what has been difficult during the busy work week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good day to tune up your home and make the repairs that are necessary. See to it that all is more streamlined.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Early take any health treatments you may need and get your appearance improved. Make good impressions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can handle all those private affairs early in the day and clear the deck for more important activity in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Bring those wishes closer by applying yourself seriously to gain them. The evening is fine for being with a loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make improvements to civic and credit affairs that apply to you. An influential person will then give you backing you desire.

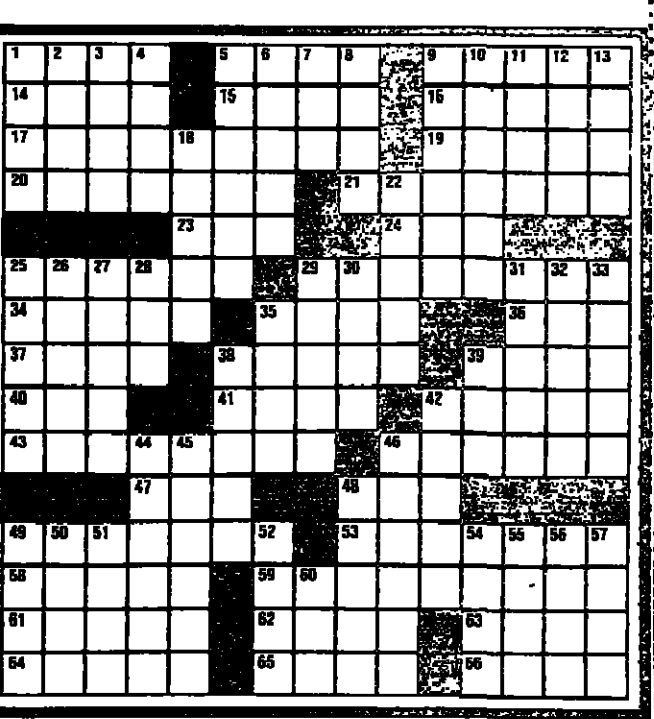
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have a certain amount of clairvoyant quality that can be helpful during the lifetime when difficult problems have to be solved. Your progeny could easily get an important position where others will seek him out.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
1984, The McNaught Syndicate, Inc.

THE Daily Crossword

by Reginald L. Johnson

ACROSS	34 Apple drink	53 Loosens shoes	25 Clean thoroughly
1 Raton	35 Heraldic bearing	54 Exchange premiums	26 Michelin-gelo status
5 Check	36 Remnant	55 Work the huskings	27 Lazy fellow
9 Power for Fulton	37 Trust	56 Pick up the tab	28 Pasha of Tripoli
14 Follower of amas	38 Mine entrances	57 Elevation	29 Wedding necessity
15 Celebes ox	39 Comic	58 Author	30 Choir member
16 Greenhouse plant	40 Shoshonean	59 Wiesel	31 Halt
17 Mixologist	41 Island near Venice	60 Confront	32 Up to
19 Reference work	42 Assume the existence of		33 Polishes
20 In a coordinated set	43 Voice		34 Frigg's husband
21 Trades	44 Stopovers		35 As a companion
22 Article	45 Negative prefix		36 Infant
24 Coolidge	46 Huck to Tom		37 Heads
25 Archid	47 Concocted guntire		38 Penetration
29 Roast			39 Snug
			40 Method
			41 Prize
			42 Chaucer's wife of
			43 Indian city
			44 Nothing to Yvonne
			45 Beetle
			46 River in Spain
			47 Osiris' crown
			48 Soft drink
			49 Bore of tides
			50 "Peter Pan" pirate
			51 Help



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Philippines polls close showing low turnout

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — Early returns showed low turnout but lopsided approval Friday in a national plebiscite to restore the Philippine Vice Presidency and make other constitutional changes.

National Police Commander Gen. Fidel Ramos said three Communist rebels and two local officials were killed in scattered violence on election day, but conditions were generally peaceful.

Although some of the constitutional changes were designed to appease opponents of President Ferdinand Marcos, many pushed for a poll boycott with a 75-mile (120-kilometre) "ignore run" and, in one city, a sit-in.

As more than 80,000 polling places closed across the islands, Elections Commission Chairman Vicente Santiago projected a 70 per cent turnout and said of the boycott: "I think it has failed."

But Associated Press monitoring of seven Manila polling places, random results from provincial precincts and reports by Manila radio stations showed turnouts ranging from 20 to 50 per cent.

Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza in a television interview attributed the low turnout in some areas to the fact there were no candidates and "people believe the 'yes' votes will dominate anyway."

Opposition parties called their boycott to avoid giving recognition to what they consider an illegal constitution introduced by President Ferdinand Marcos while

he ruled under martial law.

The amendments would restore the vice-presidency at the next presidential elections in 1987, redefine constituency boundaries for national assembly seats and introduce some land grant and urban housing reforms.

Opposition groups urging a boycott roamed the provinces, especially the central islands, while government supporters in loudspeaker vans spread the opposite message.

Election Commission officials in Manila said armed men early Friday raided three polling stations near the southern city of Cagayan de Oro and made off with the ballot boxes.

They said no one was reported hurt but they did not identify the raiders.

Cagayan de Oro is on the north coast of Mindanao Island, where Muslim secessionists and the Communist New People's Army (NPA) are active.

Near Legaspi, about 200 miles (325 kilometres) south east of Manila, suspected NPA guerrillas gunned down a local police chief but the provincial constabulary commander said the shooting was not connected with the referendum.

Norway recalls ambassador to Moscow

OSLO, Norway (A.P.) — Norway's ambassador to Moscow is being recalled for consultations about Arne Treholt, a Foreign Ministry official accused of spying for the Soviet Union, the ministry's spokesman said Friday.

Mr. Geir Grung, spokesman for Foreign Minister Svend Stray, said Dagfinn Stenseth was expected to arrive during the weekend.

"Actually he was called home before Mr. Treholt was arrested last Friday," Mr. Grung said.

"He was wanted in Oslo to discuss plans for three pending visits to Norway by Soviet government officials. We had considered arranging the visits before June."

Nevertheless, Mr. Grung said, now Mr. Stenseth's prime reason for returning will be to discuss the spy case, in which Mr. Treholt has admitted spying for the Soviet KGB, or secret police, during several years in which he held key Foreign Ministry jobs.

The visits could be delayed or even cancelled in the wake of the Treholt affair. Mr. Stray has said Mr. Treholt's arrest has strained Soviet-Norwegian relations.

On Friday, 50 major Norwegian youth organisations decided to stop dealing with the Soviet embassy in Oslo.

Non-aligned nations call for state control of information

JAKARTA, Indonesia (A.P.) — Information ministers from the Non-aligned group of nations Friday studied a draft declaration affirming the right of governments to control the flow of news.

A preliminary copy of the declaration, to be issued at Monday's end of the five-day conference, was made available to the Associated Press. The ministers from 68 countries gathered in closed session Friday.

The main conference document broke no new ground on earlier non-aligned positions. It again called on behalf of the Third World for "a new international information and communication order."

The first of its 14 points said "every developing country has the right to exercise full sovereignty over information, both that (which) concerns its day-to-day realities and that (which) diffuses to its people."

"The right to free communication, within the limits fixed

by the desire for the common good and respect due to the law, institution and individuals, is guaranteed by the state."

The new order is designed to help eradicate poverty and backwardness in the Third World and prevent a cultural identity crisis. "Every nation has the right and obligation to determine its own cultural identity. Therefore the character of the new order referred to must clearly be able to prevent dehumanisation in the process of modernisation and development," the draft said.

It called for a free and balanced exchange of news among non-aligned states "linked and oriented to the support of the new international economic order." This envisages among other things a massive transfer of technology from the developed to the developing world.

"The exchanges should be in the nature of 'constructive news' covering social, economic, cultural, scientific, technical and

other items which portray the efforts under way in the non-aligned and developing world to improve the quality of life among its peoples and promote measures to sustain a steady increase in the standards of living of its peoples," the draft said.

It urged strengthening professional bodies, improvement of communications and promotion of international understanding, but offered no concrete steps toward the new communications order.

The document's tone was not strident and it cited no opponents to its proposals. However, it lacked support for the concept of freedom of the press as generally understood in the United States and other Western countries. "The assertion and preservation of the sovereign rights of states in the fields of information and communication," was Declaration 11.

Storm over sacked German general grows

BONN (R) — The row over sacked NATO General Guenter Kiesling threatened to blow up into a major crisis in West Germany Friday with a report in the influential newspaper Die Welt quoting right-wing leader Franz-Josef Strauss as calling for a major cabinet reshuffle.

Die Welt printed the story despite a strong denial by Mr. Strauss, whose Christian Social Union (CSU) is the second largest party in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition.

Editor-in-Chief Herbert Kremp told Reuters Thursday that the report of his telephone conversation with the Bavarian leader was correct, and he had no reason to withdraw it.

Mr. Strauss was quoted as saying he would be willing to take over the defence portfolio should the present minister, Manfred Woerner, be forced to resign over the Kiesling affair.

He was also said to have talked about changes at the top in the foreign and economics ministries.

Mr. Woerner has been under heavy pressure to resign because of strong doubts about evidence upon which he based his decision

to fire Gen. Kiesling. The general, one of NATO's two deputy supreme commanders, was declared a security risk last month after witnesses claimed he frequented a homosexual bar.

Economics Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff could also be forced to step down in the next few months if a court should order him to stand trial on charges of accepting political bribes from the Flick Conglomerate in the late 1970s.

Mr. Strauss, in a statement, accused Die Welt of putting words in his mouth and said the report echoed the conservative newspaper's own political wishes.

Die Welt ran the story as its front-page lead Friday, under the headline "Strauss presses for a big shakeup in Bonn."

It quoted the Bavarian premier as saying the Foreign Ministry would be "a gift," apparently confirming long-standing reports that his main ambition is to succeed veteran Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Mr. Strauss, who was defence minister in the early 1960s, said he would only accept Mr. Woerner's post "like a call-up," but Die Welt



Gen. Guenter Kiesling

said he implied that Mr. Genscher's job as deputy chancellor would have to be offered along with the defence post.

Mr. Kohl offered both jobs to Strauss when he formed his government in March last year. According to sources close to Mr. Strauss, the CSU leader refused because he wanted either the economics or the foreign affairs portfolios.

American woman killed by Salvadorean rebels

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Guerrillas shot and killed an American woman Thursday as she and her family were travelling through El Salvador towards the Honduran border, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Linda Cancel 22, was shot through the chest when guerrillas opened fire on the family's Chevrolet van after it failed to stop and pay war taxes demanded by the rebels, the spokesman said.

Her husband and two children, a one-year-old baby girl and a five-year-old boy, escaped injury.

he said. A spokesman said the incident occurred early Thursday morning near the town of Jocoico in the eastern province of Morazan, where guerrillas control large areas of territory.

The spokesman said the family was on holiday on their way to Costa Rica and had entered the country from Guatemala.

A U.S. embassy spokesman confirmed Mrs. Cancel's death and said the embassy was investigating the incident.

Armenians silent over backing of embassy raid

PARIS (R) — Four Armenians who admit storming the Turkish consulate with guns and explosives refused to tell a Paris court who had ordered the operation or who had sheltered them during their brief stay in the French capital.

Kevoork Guzelian, who Tuesday said he had been trained by the Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), told presiding Judge Guy Floch on the second day of the trial: "We can say nothing. These are the secrets of our organisation."

The four men admitted they had a Kalashnikov assault rifle, two pistols, two grenades and several hundred grammes of explosives in a travel bag which they took to the consulate.

A Turkish guard was killed and Turkish vice-consul Kaya Inal seriously injured in the assault, which ended after 15 hours when the gunmen surrendered to police.

The four Beirut-based Armenians are charged with illegally holding people under death threat, using armed violence and pos-

sessing explosives. One, Kevoork Guzelian, is also accused of murder, and another, Vasken Sissian, with attempted murder.

Judge Floch said the rifle and grenades came from East Bloc countries, the explosives were of Czechoslovak origin and the Western-made pistols were part of a lot that had been sold to the Iraqi government.

Mr. Sissian, accused of trying to kill a French plainclothes policeman during the assault, said he did not see the officer's police armband and he fired at the ceiling only after the officer shot at him.

The officer was quoted by Judge Floch as saying Mr. Sissian fired in his direction when he entered the passport office shouting "police." The officer fired back, wounding Mr. Sissian.

Another defendant, Hagop Djoufayan, was questioned about the shooting of the vice-consul. He said the consul fired at him first with a pistol and the shot ricocheted off his rifle, wounding him. He replied with a burst of gunfire.

Chief minister re-elected following Gibraltar polls

GIBRALTAR (R) — Veteran politician Sir Joshua Hassan was Friday re-elected chief minister of Gibraltar for a fourth successive term following government elections in the tiny British rock colony.

Sir Joshua, 68, who has dominated Gibraltar politics for the past three decades, won a majority in the 15-seat house of assembly when his Gibraltar Labour Party Association for the advancement of Civil Rights gained eight seats in Thursday's poll.

The main opposition party until now, the Democratic Party for British Gibraltar led by Mr. Peter Isola, suffered a humiliating defeat in the polls.

It was routed by the union-backed Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party of Mr. Joe Bossano, which gained the remaining seven seats.

Mr. Bossano was his party's sole representative in the last House of Assembly.

The central issue in the election was the planned closure of Britain's naval dockyard on the rock. Mr. Bossano's party rejected a London-backed plan to commercialise the yard.

Sir Joshua, who helped negotiate the plan, said he was happy about the result and did not feel that the surge in support for Mr. Bossano's party was a criticism of his handling of the issue.

"We have won the election on that issue," he said. The question of Spain's claim to the rock, captured by the British in 1704, has not been an issue in the election.

All three parties accepted that the 30,000 inhabitants of Gibraltar, who voted overwhelmingly to stay British in a referendum in 1967, wish to remain so.

Turnout in the election was high at 74.5 per cent of the 16,000 electorate, compared with 63.3 per cent in the last election in 1980.

British aircraft carrier cancels S. Korean visit

SINGAPORE (R) — The trouble-hit British aircraft carrier Invincible has cancelled a visit to South Korea after being forced to enter drydock here for the second time with a propeller problem, a senior officer from the ship said Thursday.

The Invincible, on a seven-month goodwill tour of the far east as flagship of a naval task group, limped into the government-owned Sembawang Shipyard on Tuesday, only one day after repairs to a propeller shaft.

The officer told Reuters that the latest problem was with the same propeller but appeared to be unconnected with the earlier trouble. The Invincible first went into drydock in Singapore on January 9 after it was refused permission to carry out repairs to the damaged shaft in Sydney, Britain would not

give a guarantee sought by the Australian government that the ship was not carrying nuclear weapons.

It cancelled visits to Hong Kong and Japan, and came to Singapore. The new trouble showed up during sea trials on the way to South Korea.

"We have cancelled our visit to Pusan, but other ships in the task group will still go there," the officer said.

He added: "At this moment we do not know how long we will have to stay here."

The Invincible took part in the Falklands war between Britain and Argentina in 1982. But the officer said there was no indication that the ship's present troubles had anything to do with its engagement in the South Atlantic.

U.K. ban on union at spy centre provokes uproar

LONDON (R) — The British government has provoked outrage in the trade unions, the Labour Party opposition and the civil rights lobby by a decision to ban union activities at its main electronic spying centre in western England.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was accused in parliament Thursday of acting under pressure from the U.S.

When she denied it Labour leader Neil Kinnock all but said she was lying. Trade Union leaders pledged to defy the ban, denouncing it as a threat to Democracy. A leading civil rights group said it would challenge it in the European court of human rights.

The ban affects all workers at the Cheltenham Monitoring and Code Breaking Centre, which eavesdrops on Soviet communications. It hit the headlines in 1982 when a long-serving linguist was jailed as a Soviet spy.

An official commission said the spy, Geoffrey Prime, caused exceptionally grave damage to Bri-

tain and its allies. The staff of more than 7,000 received notices this week telling them to leave their unions or accept a transfer to other work.

Mr. Kinnock's charge that U.S. influence lay behind the move reflects reports that after the 1982, spy case Washington pressed for the introduction of polygraph lie detector tests to tighten security at Cheltenham.

The unions were opposing the plan saying the machines were unreliable. When Mrs. Thatcher denied any U.S. involvement Mr. Kinnock reported: "I wish we had a polygraph here, no matter how dependable they are."

The government said the ban on union activities was imposed because strikes in 1979 and 1981 had disrupted vital work at the centre and future could jeopardise national security.

When union officials arrived at Cheltenham Thursday to see members at the centre they were barred from entering, but at a meeting nearby 1,000 workers cheered a call not to accept the ban.

Burma displeased with Seoul after bombing

RANGOON (R) — Burma has expressed displeasure with South Korea over the distribution here of South Korean literature related to the Oct. 9 bombing which killed four South Korean cabinet ministers, Asian diplomatic sources said Friday.

Burmese officials remained silent on the booklets and pamphlets, which contain photographs of the gory bomb site shortly after the bomb exploded, killing a total of 17 South Koreans and four Burmese.

The literature contains comments critical of Burmese security measures at the Martyr's Mausoleum, where the bomb exploded as South Korean officials and ministers were gathered prior to the arrival of South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan who was making

an official visit to Burma.

The Burmese government later accused North Korea of responsibility for the bombing and broke off diplomatic relations. A Burmese court sentenced two North Korean army officers to death for the bombing.

The diplomatic sources said the South Korean literature distributed here featured strident anti-Pyongyang attacks which embarrassed neutral Burma, which hopes for the issue to die down.

They said the literature did not carry the mandatory seal of the Burmese Press Scrutiny Authority which must stamp its approval on publications issued by embassies. They said that Burmese authorities have turned down a request for an extension of stay by at

least one South Korean official and the South Korean Charge d'Affaires in Rangoon, Young Shik Song, will soon be leaving after less than a year in Burma.

Meanwhile lawyers for the two North Korean army officers said the Burmese supreme court was expected to rule shortly on their Jan. 11 appeal.

If the three-member bench turns down their appeal they could ask for a review of their case by a five-member bench of the court, the lawyers said.

They added that the prisoners at the end of the legal process could appeal for clemency from the Council of State, whose chairman, President San Yu, could indefinitely stay an execution by refusing to sign death warrants.

Reagan looks set for re-election bid

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan made a brief but triumphant visit to the deep south that leaves little doubt he is starting on the campaign trail for re-election this year.

The president — 73 next month — has still not issued a formal announcement that he is standing for a second term. But that is expected to come on Sunday when he appears on television.

"Tune in Sunday Night, Don't miss it," he told southern Republican leaders in Atlanta Thursday.

The meeting was one of three public appearances over two days that showed every sign Mr. Reagan is running again.

He laid the groundwork for what are likely to be major campaign themes in his State of the Union address on Wednesday night. He followed that up Thursday by virtually repeating the speech at a rally of 14,000 cheering, flag-waving supporters in Atlanta. Then he went on to give a pep talk there to leaders of his party.

Mr. Reagan even tested out what looks a campaign slogan. He declared at the rally, as he did in the State of the Union message: "America is back — standing tall."

In the State of the Union address, Mr. Reagan urged Americans to unite behind "four great goals" — ensuring economic growth, developing outer space, strengthening traditional values and building world peace.

He repeated the themes at the

Atlanta rally. It was billed as a non-partisan "spirit of America" event, but he was interrupted by applause more than 30 times in less than half an hour.

Telling the wildly enthusiastic audience that his administration had made a new beginning in the last three years, he added: "We have come too far... to turn back now."

He conceded that federal budget deficits, running around \$180 billion a year, were still too large but reiterated his standard rejection of higher taxes as a way to reduce the red ink.

The president was careful to strike a non-partisan note at the rally, which he said was comprised "not of Democrats or Republicans, but deeply patriotic Americans."

But he was decidedly partisan in his appearance before the Republican leaders.

Referring to a debate among Democratic presidential hopefuls earlier this month, he said: "A while ago there was a debate in New Hampshire. There were so many candidates on the platform there were not enough promises to go around."

Mondale ahead

Former Vice President Walter Mondale Friday claimed a major victory in a poll of Democrats in Congress for the Democratic presidential nomination but his major opponent, John Glenn, found his campaign floundering. Aides to Mr. Mondale said he

had won at least 97 of the 164 presidential nominating convention delegates chosen by House of Representative Democrats in balloting that ended Thursday night.

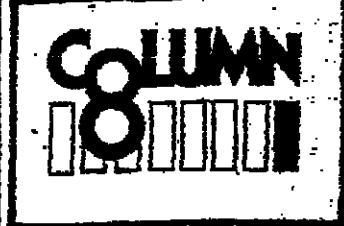
They said Ohio Senator John Glenn, a former astronaut, followed with at least 16, by their count.

On Thursday, Sen. Glenn replaced his presidential campaign manager amid signs that his bid for the Democratic nomination was falling apart at the seams. Sen. Glenn named Jerry Vento, a seasoned Democratic political professional, to replace William White, who had masterminded his bid for the presidency since its inception last March.

The run-up to the Democratic Party convention in San Francisco in July moves into high gear next month with primary elections in New Hampshire and Iowa. Mr. Mondale has mustered big opinion poll leads in both states.

Mr. Mondale has built up opinion poll leads over his Democratic rivals of up to 3-1, piled up endorsements and built formidable political machines in key primary states. Sen. Glenn's stock seems to have plummeted on all fronts.

In a new CBS-New York Times poll of Democratic presidential preference, Sen. Glenn dropped to only 14 per cent support behind Mondale's 44 per cent. He also had to share second place for the first time since the campaign polls started a year ago.



Honesty shines in store blackout

PEKING (R) — Nearly 10,000 customers were thronging a Chinese department store when all the lights went out and nothing was stolen, China Daily said. The newspaper said people holding goods when the blackout occurred handed them back to staff, others lit candles or volunteered to keep order. Banknotes, totalling 160,000 yuan (\$20,000) were lying around in a bank branch in the store, in the northeastern city of Changchun, but not one was stolen. It added, Shop staff commented: "The store was blacked out but the customers were a shining example of honesty."

Senators repeal their pay raise

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Senators voted to repeal a 3.5 per cent pay rise for them which took effect on Jan. 1, boosting their salaries from \$69,800 to \$72,243 a year. The pay increase, which quietly went through Congress before adjournment last November, was turned back on a 66 to 19 vote as a symbolic economic move in an election year when the federal deficit is expected to be about \$180 billion. The repeal measure, which affects only elected members of Congress and not federal employees who also received a pay rise, now goes to the House of Representatives for action. It was the first bill approved by the Senate this year.

Reagan's friend dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Multi-millionaire businessman Justin Dart, a close friend of President Reagan and regarded as a Republican Party kingmaker, died Thursday aged 76, a spokesman for Mr. Dart said. He said Mr. Dart, chairman of the executive committee of Dart and Kraft, a conglomerate that manufactures everything from batteries to plastic cups, had been undergoing hospital treatment in Los Angeles for heart trouble. Mr. Dart was one of a small group of wealthy California businessmen who persuaded Mr. Reagan in 1966 to begin his successful campaign to become governor of California. He was quoted at the time as saying of Mr. Reagan: "I don't think he is the most brilliant man I ever met, but he has credibility. He can get on his feet and influence people." Mr. Dart was also a member of Mr. Reagan's so-called kitchen cabinet which helped plot the Reagan campaign for the presidency. In February, 1982, Dart apologised to former President Gerald Ford after being quoted as calling him a dumb bastard.

Poles watch 'The Day After'

WARSAW (R) — Poland's State Television has broadcast a controversial American TV movie about nuclear war, but a key word in the film was blurred, sources with access to the script said. An estimated 21 million of Poland's 36 million people gathered around television sets Thursday to see 'The Day After,' the film which depicts the effects of a nuclear strike on a small Kansas town. The sources said the blurring had occurred early in the film, when a newscaster referred to reports that East German troops had rebelled against their Warsaw Pact allies, which include Poland. The imagined rebellion is one of the incidents leading to the U.S.-Soviet intercontinental nuclear exchange which lies at the centre of the film. The sources said the Polish word for east, "wschodnio", had been shortened to "...odnio", so that it could have been taken to mean "zachodnio" — the Polish word for west. Viewers could have thought the newscaster was saying it was West German troops who had rebelled, they said.

New cigarette 'stops coughing' makes you spit

PEKING (R) — A Peking factory has produced a low-nicotine cigarette intended to stop smokers' cough and induce spitting instead, China Daily said. It said the tobacco used for the "Golden Arrow" brand includes bluish dogbane, valued in traditional medicine for its qualities as an expectorant and cough suppressant. China has some 200 million smokers — and most of them spit already.

GORÉN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GORÉN
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CLUBBED TO DEATH

North-South vulnerable.
North deals.

<p>NORTH ♠ 63 ♥ J1053 ♦ 10954 ♣ A86</p> <p>WEST ♠ Q104 ♥ Q82 ♦ KJ6 ♣ J532</p> <p>SOUTH ♠ AKJ98752 ♥ K6 ♦ Void ♣ Q97</p>	<p>EAST ♠ Void ♥ A974 ♦ AQ8732 ♣ K104</p>
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The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 1 0 4 Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.

We have frequently been accused of neglecting the female of the species in our coverage of bridge activities. If it is true, we hasten to apologize — we are devoted to the ladies and hate to think of playing bridge without them. Here's a hand from the Women's Team event at the recent Common Market Championships.

What is the correct bid with the South hand? Four spades is as good a choice as any, but we could make a case for one spade or even

pass. In any event, four spades was the final contract in the England-France match.

Maureen Dennison of England led the king of diamonds, ruffed by the declarer, Elisabeth Delor. It was almost certain that now East had to have the king of clubs, so it looked as if there was a danger of losing four tricks in the minor suits.

Declarer ruffed and cashed the king of spades to learn there was also a trump loser. Declarer cashed the ace of spades and then elected to try to set up hearts. She led the king of hearts from hand, and East, Dianna Williams, was put to the test early. She came through with flying colors.

She grabbed the ace of hearts and fired back the king of clubs. Declarer could not afford to duck this trick, for then she would have to lose two heart tricks, a trump and a club. But when she won with the ace of clubs, her only entry to the table was eliminated. No matter what she did, she would have to lose two hearts and a trick in each black suit for down one.

We love to watch the ladies!

مكتبة الأستاذ